

PRESENT: Paige Smith, Jeremy Hudgeons, Lisa Kennelly, Bill Mahoney, Jason Cook, Libby Sinclair, Laura Dewell (*Green Plate Special*), Karin Richard, Susan Minogue, Barney Mansavage, Max Liebowitz, Mark Zimmerly (Pastor, Madrona Presbyterian), Susie Purves (Spectrum Dance Theater), Stacey Criman, Kim Herber, Kevin O'Doherty, Jay McCrary, Deirdre McCrary, Holly Smith
... and cupcakes courtesy of Verité.

Acting president, Vice President Paige Smith, opened the meeting at 7:20 with remarks about the new energy and excitement created by an influx of neighbors' commitment to making the council work. Paige reviewed the progress on the beach project, funded by the Kraus bequest, with its newly installed plants and concrete log. Deirdre described the use so far of the funding provided by the Kraus bequest to Madrona Woods, including repayment of debts incurred during the recent daylighting and Parks' assumption of responsibility for the clearing of the slope above Lake Washington Blvd., in exchange for using the Kraus funds to purchase plants and install them. Plants have been purchased for this season and are being installed by Friends of Madrona Woods. Deirdre expressed interest in directing the unused allocation instead to fund some educational signage to explain the history and rationale of the project to those unfamiliar with the site.

Laura Dewell and Libby Sinclair of the *Green Plate Special* project described this program for at-risk youth. Laura is a chef and educator; Libby is a former teacher. The Madrona Company (represented tonight by Maz Liebowitz) has donated the use of the empty lot across from Grocery Outlet for use as a pilot project for this program for a 3-year period. The land will be used as a small, urban teaching farm to teach real-life skills to middle-school-aged children. Their hope is to move the project later to a stable location. The plan is to recruit the first youths, get their ideas, create and plant the space, tend it, harvest it, cook with the harvest, and compost what is left. They hope to include a small kitchen that can later be moved to a new site. Green Plate Special is partnering with Tree House, Coyote, Madrona K-8 (possibly offering breakfast to those students). The hope is eventually to start the project in other locations in the state. Laura and Libby will meet with Barney Mansavage and Karin Richard about including Madrona K-8. They might also work with St. Cloud's in its project to feed the homeless. Currently the project has seed money to pay the property taxes on the land but will need more grants to get through the three years. Environmental Works on Capitol Hill has donated help with design. A plan is in place to publish an article with request for donations in next month's newsletter.

Karin Richard suggested that the project leaders meet with BOOM at 1 pm at Amara on the first Wednesday (tomorrow) to alert businesses about the program. Barney Mansavage will get the email addresses of the three Madrona K-8 teachers who run the Madrona garden program, so that Laura and Libby can follow up with them.

Max Liebowitz remarked that this project will be the first use of that piece of land ever in history, according to his research. He hopes the project will change perspectives on the Central District. Susan Minogue suggested reaching out to those people in the

neighborhood who lack access to the usual media. Door-to-door outreach is planned. One goal of the program is to achieve diversity, so the program may eventually charge on a sliding scale to allow wide participation.

Barney Mansavage updated information about the proposed reader board for Madrona K-8. A matching grant application is due in May. Placement and details will be decided later. The school wants it to be a community bulletin board, posting non-commercial community events. Drawings of proposed design will follow. He is looking for funding resources from MCC; the matching requirement means they must raise \$5,000 of the \$10,000-estimated cost. He will present ideas in April for a unified application to the city after talking with neighbors. Ideally it would be placed at an angle that would allow it to be read from both Union and 34th. The school would maintain the sign.

Susan Minogue talked about communication strategies for the council. She plans to assess what is done now, its success, and then develop ideas for the future. The idea is to bring more people to meetings and bring people together to advertise the council. Ideas include a coffee social or bringing in a speaker, maybe present the plan for the reader board, the Green Plate project, or invite the mayor. She wants to attract people and energy to help the council sustain itself, and then document the strategies so that new people on the council don't have to start over.

- She raised the question of available funding.
- Is there existing information about current events and where does it reside?
- Is there a formal procedure to review the meeting minutes?
- Can the minutes be posted online to help advertise what is going on? Currently the blog is not up-to-date. Jason Cook showed an understanding of how Google Groups, etc., work, and those present expressed much interest in signing him up as a board member.
- Susan proposed the idea of trying a neighborhood meeting and then assessing its success. Pastor Mark at Madrona Presbyterian said that his church does have space and his board is interested in offering its facilities to the community, as the church has frequently done in the past, including housing the first Head-Start program in the nation. A basement renovation will start soon, creating even more space for additional community use. After a discussion about Mayfair and whether the scheduled community meeting should occur before Mayfair and bring people in who will help with that event or after Mayfair to use that event to encourage participation in a later meeting, it was agreed to hold the big meeting after Mayfair. Susan urged the keeping of a data base of the tasks involved in putting on Mayfair, building on what we already have and using it more effectively. She would like to see a basic model of publicity, funding, and recruiting apply to all events. She suggested having the executive council meet to document what has been done in the past as a starting point. Establishing a Paypal account for MCC would make donating easier for people. Perhaps the meeting could be hosted by a local business with a cash bar?

Paige reminded those present that there is still no real council president. Action has been postponed until we got the word out and saw the feeling in the neighborhood as to the council's value. We have begun building a core of people who want to beome

regular participants. Next month we'll have a conversation about electing a president. A discussion ensued as to the expectations for board members (versus officers), of which the by-laws require no fewer than 9 nor more than 21. Officers are president, vice president, treasurer, and secretary. Absence from three of the ten meetings per year is grounds for dismissal. Board members are expected to review the meeting minutes, do outreach, participate in meetings, and run committees as required. The by-laws are available to read on the website.

The following people were nominated, seconded, and unanimously voted as new board members:

Kim Herber

Stacey Criman(?) [oops! She didn't sign in and I'm uncertain of her last name]

Jason Cook

Bill Mahoney

Officers and board members will meet before the February meeting, but the exact date will be organized around Steve Orser's schedule to insure his attendance. There is no general fund; funding relies on donations. The general meeting should also be used as a way to rally funding. Paige urged that we develop a procedure to capture the email addresses of people who come with ideas, such as Melissa from the December meeting.

Karin Richard talked about her projects. Storytime has been highly successful and might be taken over by Langston Hughes. She has met with Mazvita Maraire at Garfield CC, but the process is slow. Sewing classes start next week on Tuesday, 7:30 to 9:30. She needs five more people to sign up. She has one enrollee now and will advertise for more. She also plans a project Sunday from 1 to 4 once a month, where people could come and bring a project, but she is still looking for a space. She sees these activities as means to keep people in the neighborhood. Susan Minogue secured a donation of a 5 x 8 rug from Pande Cameron for Storytime. A photo of its use, along with a write-up, will be put in the blog and newsletter. The children's literacy project proved to have several partners already, so Karin is still looking for readers, possibly from Seattle U. The first half of the hour is a story; then the children do crafts or music. Karin may put out funding boxes, which, if successful, would enable her to hire paid people. Her target age is 1- to 4-year-olds for Storytime.

The Madrona Playfield project is roughly ten years old, and someone suggested doing a 10-year anniversary celebration and inviting people who were part of the original project.

Bingo night at Madrona K-8 is January 21, 7 to 8 pm, with prizes. The community with kids is invited. Baked goods are needed and someone from the school (Rita?) will pick them up from anyone wanting to contribute. There will be a donation box on bingo night to collect funds for items on the teacher wish lists.

Paige and others reminded us that Neighborhood Appreciation Day and Mayfair are coming up. Neighborhood Appreciation Day recognizes people in the community who have done outstanding things. Nominations are gathered from the community, and attendees vote at a future MCC meeting. There are also four school awards given. The event is held in the school library, and the date is open; voting probably will occur in April. Barney will propose a date that works for the school, and we can work backwards from there. The official citywide Neighborhood Appreciation Day is in February, but we have adjusted it. Paige has begun working on Mayfair, which will occur the Saturday after Mother's Day, May 14. She suggested that event as an opportunity to rally volunteers for Storytime.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45

Submitted by Deirdre McCrary, Secretary