

MADRONA COMMUNITY COUNCIL MINUTES, 6 September 2011

PRESENT: Barbara Parker, Kim Herber, Holly Smith, Susan Minogue, Nikki Lundin, Bill Mahoney, Sandra Dunn, Stacey Kryman, Mark Zimmerly, Kevin O'Doherty, Casey Losh, Deirdre McCrary

Meeting with outdoor seating was called to order at 7:15. Holly reported from Karin Richard that funding for the shelterhouse bathroom project has been restored with the recognition that the beach restrooms are already open year-round and that shelterhouse bathrooms need to be made ADA accessible and kept open year-round. Apologies were offered from Parks for bureaucratic snafus.

Tim Croll and Susan Stoltzfus from SPU brought information about progress on the comprehensive master plan for solid waste in the city. The plan is being updated, as is done every 5 or 6 years. The goal was 60% recycling by 2012, but the program has slowed with the recession. The new goal for that percentage is 2015, with a goal of 70% by 2025, which SPU thinks might occur even earlier.

Mr. Croll polled those present regarding moving garbage collection to every other week for single family homes, as some counties and cities now do. That reduction could save \$6 million of the \$150 million that collection currently costs. Apartments and businesses would still be collected weekly. Mr. Croll reminded us that putting more than 10% of recyclables into the garbage is illegal and subject to a \$50 fine after the second notice. Similarly, businesses may not put paper or cardboard into the garbage. Recycling of food waste for multi-family residences began Sept. 1. A second poll asked whether businesses should be subject to the same recycling rules as homes.

These measures will get the city to 60%, but reaching 70% requires more measures. Currently 20 to 25% of garbage is pet waste and diapers. His third poll asked whether there should be a fourth container, charged separately, for pet waste and diapers, all of which would be composted anaerobically.

He answered questions about the efficiency of yard-waste composting, which is ground and then completely covered during the composting process. The finished product can be purchased by the bag or load from Cedar Grove. Paper or biodegradable plastic bags are ok for food waste, but milk cartons are not compostable.

Those present largely favored the measures in the three polls. Anyone wishing to express individual opinions can complete the online Survey Monkey at the SPU site.

Mark Zimmerly, Madrona Presbyterian Pastor, reported on the small shelter for homeless women and children that his church plans to open in the church basement. Residents will spend the day at Mary's Place and spend the night in the church's shelter. There will be another informational meeting on Thursday, October 6, at 7 at the church for neighbors and others interested in the details. Pastor Zimmerly addressed questions about bed bug prevention, needed items (most supplied by Mary's Place), victims of domestic violence (none knowingly accepted), age limits for children (no age limit because most other shelters limit children to under 9, which breaks up families).

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Pastor Zimmerly will write an article for the Madrona News. Susan Minogue stressed the need for communication, particularly with neighbors who might have been missed in the earlier rounds, and clarified that the children would not be removed from their existing school when they move into the church. Pastor Zimmerly expects the average stay for families to be 28 days, which is the average amount of time required for permanent placement.

Susan reported on the Mayor's Town Hall Meeting. Bill and Nikki will meet and greet the Mayor, and Holly and Susan will accompany him on the walking tour. The hour-long walking tour starts at 10:30. Then they will return to Madrona K-8 for questions until 1 pm. Susan will try to get permission from Principal Thaxton to set up in the library on Friday after school. The walk will include businesses in the main business district, starting at 34th and Pike, with planned stops at St. Cloud's, Glassybaby, and *The Facts*. Susan will find out from Stan Lock whether his department is taking care of photos, but Barbara would like to have a photo for Madrona News. Susan will put up signs in the business district to advertise the event. Many residents received robo-calls from the Mayor announcing the event.

Planning Meeting It was agreed to hold a special board meeting for purposes of planning only--no other agenda items. Holly will email dates and details.

Nominations We need a person to replace Holly as president, but we agreed that we first need to sort out the mission and funding of the council so that the individual knows more precisely what he/she is signing on to do.

Kevin reported on a fund-raising idea. He talked with Steve at Leschi Mart about MCC's financial situation, and Steve offered to put on one of the wine-tasting events to benefit MCC that he has run for other groups. Guests pay \$20 for entrance and receive finger food and tastes of wine provided free by various vintners. MCC would get the profit on Leschi's sales that night plus the door money. Previous events were attended by about 140 people and netted \$5,000 to \$6,000, according to Steve. We would need to set a date; figure out a venue; pay for permits, finger food, and rentals of tables and glasses. Steve is ready to go soon; Kevin will clarify how much lead time he needs and what month/season he prefers. Possible venues are parking lot at Amara (after Friday farmers' market), Glassybaby (block off the adjacent street), St. Therese, Madrona K-8 (and serve wine?), HiSpot (or maybe have several stations and use several businesses). Stacey will ask Lee Rhodes about possibilities for using her facilities, since Lee has experience with such events. Nikki, Kevin, Stacey, and Bill agreed to form a sub-committee to work on a plan.

Kim reported on Brass Rings She met with CleanScapes to look at a sample and get final details. Permission from all but one adjacent business owner was granted. Plans are to move that one ring to a location close to but not on that business' sidewalk. CleanScapes wants to circulate a flyer to tell more people in the neighborhood about the project, and Kim will be distributing the flyers. The rings should be ready by early November for an inaugural event.

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New home needed for items stored in Shelterhouse. Maybe we could rent space nearby? Maybe Stacey could store the stuff?

Bulk mailing permit has been provided by the Seattle Federation of Community Councils, which will no longer offer the service. Leschi bought a permit for \$160 and has offered to share it with us for half the cost, \$80. The permit will be good for the newsletter as well as any bulk mailings from MCC. We must have the permit for the newsletter, so vote was unanimous to accept Leschi's offer.

Halloween Bottlehouse wants to be involved, as might BOOM as well. MCC is responsible for decorating, set-up, and treats, which Stacey will organize. Previously photos were offered of kids in costume in exchange for a donation. Could that be done without Polaroid?

Casey reported on finances. Little has changed since the last report, but he had information about newsletter finances. He and Barbara have pushed for advertisers and raised prices \$10/ad, plus a larger fee for locating on the back page. There is a push to get people now getting free advertising through writing articles to contribute to the newsletter. They have sold several half-page ads and come closer to breaking even on the cost of the next newsletter. The goal for future newsletters is to break even. He suggested such fund-raising ideas as creating posters or banners for MCC events and listing names of sponsors in exchange for a donation. Sponsors could be named on tee shirts for Mayfair. Maybe Mayfair and BOOM's street fair could collaborate for fund raising. Ad revenue now comes to Casey as treasurer, but he and Barbara both have plenty to do with their existing jobs, so an ad manager is needed. Kevin suggested sharing the duty, since knowing the business owner is helpful in soliciting ads.

Adjourned in the dark at 8:30

Submitted by Deirdre McCrary, Secretary