

Minutes July 2018,

The Third Ward Neighborhood Association met at 7:00 pm in 1401 UWEC Centennial Hall on July 11, 2018.

After Chairman's remarks, a treasury report was provided. There is \$2431. in the checking account.

The Third Ward continues to evolve as THE place to live in Eau Claire. Attending the Third Ward Neighborhood Association's meeting for their first time were a couple who recently relocated from another part of our city. They shared that they wanted to be closer to the renaissance underway downtown and to be more involved with all the activities both downtown as well as around the university. This summer, we are now welcoming new people from both near and far.

SATE STREET HILL RECONSTRUCTION

Dave Solberg, City Engineer, provided an impressive overview of the potential to be realized in properly reconstructing State Street as the entryway to our neighborhood and Downtown.

Traffic is increasing and more traffic flow requires improvement in design. Water lines, gas lines, and storm sewers require replacement. Better lighting for traffic and pedestrians, with optimal accommodation for bikes, buses, and hikers are all important components of the project.

There is a process for significant citizen input throughout this year. There is a planned work session with the City Council in January 2019. Bids are to be secured and approved in the spring, 2019. Construction is to actually take place from May through August 2019.

A State Street Gateway Website is planned. Mr. Solberg intends to continue to attend neighborhood monthly meetings, and he will also respond to questions or ideas directly on his email Dave.Solberg@eauclairewi.gov.

He is also planning an actual waking audit of the project with interested citizens this autumn.

The project includes the possibility of a round about at the top of the hill. Landscaping, signage and access to Putnam Park are also exciting project elements to be considered.

The City also wants to improve traffic safety. For example, Dave noted that the left turn onto Roosevelt off State has a high frequency of rear end accidents. This will be corrected.

Progress will not be without inconvenience. We now encourage residents of the Third Ward to stay informed, get involved and avoid complaining! Working with the City will improve our quality of life through this important undertaking. We will together ensure that it is done right.

PROPOSED GOOD ORDER ORDINANCE

City Officials have responded to the stated concerns of taskforce members and neighborhood associations. The language of the ordinance was changed to clarify and simplify matters. Archaic language was also eliminated. The TWNA now supports the ordinance as modified.

It will now go back to the City Council later this year. Policemen attending our meeting stated that the ordinance would enable them to nip situations in the bud and head off unsafe escalation.

Concern was expressed regarding the process that the City utilized with the task force agendas and input. We all want to actually be heard and to not waste our time if there is a pre-determined outcome. The end result of this specific process is an ordinance that is fair and that promote public safety for everyone.

SEPTEMBER ANNUAL MEETING

All residents are encouraged to attend the annual meeting and vote for new steering committee members. We are planning to distribute fliers and run the meeting in accord with the published bylaws. Please put our annual meeting on your calendar for 7:00 on Wednesday, September 12.

NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN SURVEY

Over 300 people completed the on line survey prepared by the City with neighborhood take force input. While there were again concerns with certain aspects of the process to date, third ward residents are encouraged to continue to participate as the current plan is updated.

Next steps are forthcoming and will be shared. Key issues are to protect current zoning and improve enforcement. Student parking is also a major concern.

MISCELLANEOUS

A student partaking task force continues to be planned. The TWNA website is being updated. The police report encourages residents to list serial numbers of bikes and other items that are valuable. Keeping things locked and serial numbers listed will assist police in maintaining a safe neighborhood.

The Third Ward Thrift Sale is to be September 8, which is the second Saturday of the month. More information is to be available later this summer.

The Steering Committee is interested in coordinating between the neighborhood and a group of UW students who have expressed interest in local community building. These students can be a good resource to improve communication and undertake mutually beneficial projects for improving life in the third ward.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.