



Neighborhood Association
MONTHLY MEETING AGENDA
Wednesday, Nov 13th, 2019 @ 7PM
Room 1917 UWEC Centennial Hall, 1604 Park Ave.

Call to Order

- Meeting starts 7:11, 24 people in attendance

Approve Previous Meeting's Minutes

- Minutes approved

Chair's Report

- The Annual meeting minutes are not on the website (thirdward.org)—need to get that up
- Please sign the thank-you note for the Smets for their donation to the TWNA

Treasurer's report

- We have \$1715 in the bank
- Withdrawals lately have been mostly garden-related, including \$88 from the city for water for the garden, and \$300 for garden clean-up.
- Sharon is spearheading the fundraising drive

Friends Of Putnam Park

- Jim Schroeder (president) was going to speak, but he couldn't make it so Tim Hirsch (secretary) spoke instead.
- Invitation to become a Friend of Putnam Park (distributed forms)
- Putnam gave the park to the city. The city gave it to the university in 1959. Part of the park is designated a natural wildlife preserve. The University has responsibility of managing the park with the assistance of the city.
- Friends of Putnam Park was formed to address concerns of people—mostly from the Third Ward but also other parts of the city—about the park.
- Committees include Plant and Wildlife, Finance, Communications, Access, History and Stories, Nominating



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- Recent concerns include invasive species (incl. buckthorn, beaver), fat tire bikes going off trail, balancing accessibility and protection, gathering stories and history of the park
- The Putnam Park Commission (different body) meets 3X a year, composed of citizens; two residents in the Third Ward sit on the park commission, which also includes faculty members and students--they meet and examine issues that come up, make recommendations to the Chancellor, who then has to make decisions.
- Emily Anderson and Andrew Werthmann are the two council reps on the Putnam Park Commission
- Annual dues for Friends of Putnam Park: Individual, \$10; Household, \$20
- To join, make checks payable to “Friends of Putnam Park” Mail to:

Jim Schroeder, President
Friends of Putnam Park
1017 City View Drive
Eau Claire, WI 54701

2019 Neighborhood Plan/ University Issues

- Susan Miller provided an update on the recent meeting with the university. The university had some objections to the neighborhood plan.
- The TWNA has recommended language changes to the neighborhood plan after the meeting with the university. There is concern that the university could hold up the neighborhood plan without these changes.
- One recommendation was to change the word “restrict” to “discourage” re: outward campus growth. “Discourage” is the original language from the 2001 plan, and is acceptable to the university. Ned Noel, Associate City Planner, had also noted in the previous meeting with the university and the TWNA that we do not have the power to restrict outward campus growth.
- Roger expressed resistance to reverting to the word “discourage” as he feels it is not strong enough and will open the door for further neighborhood encroachment.
- One example of potential outward campus growth could be if the university buys the Key Apartments and makes them into dorms.
- The university agreed to remove the word “student” from the neighborhood plan in reference to people who live in the Third Ward, as



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- students are people and therefore do not need to be specifically referenced.
- Language about what other cities have done re: parking has been struck from the plan.
 - The plan does not say that we are going to implement a parking permit system, but rather that the Third Ward is in favor of studying the issue.
 - The university is concerned about the language of a “parking benefit district”
 - The university is concerned that a permit system would be resident-only, but at this point we are only talking about studying the issue in concert with the city.
 - The university still seems to want to expand the Hibbard lot. The logic is that the 80 new spaces would relieve the congestion in the rest of the Third Ward, and that the Hibbard lot is a “high demand” parking area. the TWNA has voted unanimously against expanding the Hibbard lot.
 - The university is opposed to building a parking ramp because of costs. They say the high cost of the ramp would result in higher parking fees, and would therefore push more cars into the Third Ward. The Hibbard lot is a faculty-only lot. Language in the plan says “results were mixed” about whether people wanted a ramp, but Kevin pointed out the results have been decidedly unmixed, and have shown that people want a ramp.
 - Paul Hoff brought photos of the approximately 20 trees that would have to be cut down to expand the Hibbard lot. There is a question of whether these trees are ash trees and might have to get taken down eventually anyway.
 - Language about surface lots has been struck from a plan in a way that would allow more surface lots in the Third Ward. There was question as to how that language was struck, and by whom. It is possibly because once the university takes down the science building (and/or others), they may want the option to use the space for surface lots.
 - There is resistance to striking the surface lot language from the neighborhood plan. Susan was going to look into that language change, as no one seemed to remember how that had happened.
 - Kevin has started sending Mike Rindo an agenda for the TWNA meetings
 - The university currently owns three properties on State Street—the three big white houses between the Hibbard lot and Summit on the west side of the street.

Neighborhood Association Summit



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- The meeting is Friday November 15, seven people are going, more can go if desired
- Items to discuss: what do different neighborhood associations have in common; can we fundraise together?
- We are looking into getting a PO box so mail does not get lost when we have association turnover

Fundraising

- Nine people got together at Sharon's house, talked about ideas of how to raise money. Liability is an issue with many of these ideas that would have to be worked out. Ideas include:
 - Putnam Park hayride. This would take a while to plan, get permits, consider parking, invasives that might hitch a ride on the hay, clearing dates with the U
 - End-of-year door-to-door leaflet drop for donations. Sharon has started that.
 - Christmas tree sale - possibility for Demmler for next year
 - Food drive (not a fundraiser but a way to express the spirit of the season)
 - Scrap metal pick-up (again, not a fundraiser but a helpful idea)
 - Easter egg hunt for kids next spring
 - Garden help/perennial sale
 - An event with a band/other talent from the neighborhood

Announcements/Open Forum

- Meeting about the Wilson Park Fountain, Thursday November 14 in the north conference room of City Hall. The meeting is to discuss designs for the fountain. This is the second meeting and there will be designs to look at.
- Jeremy: as a part of new city operating budget, each neighborhood association will get 200 dollars



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- Jeremy: There will be early voting in the fire station downtown, and will include evenings for multiple weeks before each election. This will start before the February primary, and be available for the April election, August and November. This will hopefully make it easier for people who work 9-5 to vote in the evenings, from 5-8 p.m., Monday through Thursday.
- Jeremy: April 1 is the start of the census: make sure you respond when they come to the door; don't hide.
- Police: careful about leaving your car on while you are in the house. People have been getting cars stolen.

Adjournment - 8:25

Next Meeting: Wednesday, DEC 11th, 2019 @ 7pm @ 1917 Centennial Hall