

3/10/20 WNA Annual Meeting

7pm at Sequoya Library

In attendance: 31 people including Board and speakers

Board members present: Emily (president), Chris T (vice president), Chris G (treasurer), Erica (secretary) Jesse (member at large), Cami (member at large)

#### Welcome & Introductions

- President Emily Feinstein presented a brief overview of neighborhood activities over the years
  - Annual activities continue
  - New: Projector equipment added to neighborhood inventory that can be checked out by anyone in the neighborhood. Hopefully will have at least 1 Movie in the Park this summer.
  - Will discuss future events and activities based on neighbor feedback

#### Board elections

- 3 open seats
  - Emily is not running for re-election
  - Sheilah Harrington and Jesse Czech elected for another term

#### Neighborhood budget update

- Memberships are up - \$16,000 came in
- \$20,000 in our account

#### General neighborhood updates

- Open neighborhood positions
  - 1 WNA Board seat
- July 4th

- Westmorland's biggest event - 2020 will celebrate the 79th anniversary
- Rely on dozens of volunteers. 100s of kids/families attend.
- Main takeaways from neighborhood survey of July 4th event:
  - Flag raising attention - will increase advertisements pre-event and do a bigger announcement after the parade
  - Water activity request - looking into small options such as misters or sprinklers
  - Parade organization - Jack Steinberg does this, difficult to keep kids in line after they are sent off. Jack already uses barricades on route, megaphone announcements, organization of cars versus kids
  - Food options - adding a vendor in the park would cost the neighborhood an additional \$700. Looking into options to have more variety or if vendors parked on the street
  - Longer day with more adult activities - exploring extended hours on 3rd or 4th
- Ice Committee, Golf Benefit- Dave Blouin
  - Adopt Ice program began in 2008/2009. They primarily take care of the hockey rink and help Parks with care of the community rink.
    - 15 volunteers spent 200 hours last season. Only open about 35 days this year. Range is 20-90 with average 50-60 days.
    - They will be looking for volunteers next year so contact [Dave](#) if interested
  - Golf Benefit
    - Usually the Saturday after Labor Day
    - Golf scramble- usually 36-48 people.
    - 9 holes. \$40 to participate. Proceeds to to WNA

- Beth Erlandson, who prints the Courier, sponsors the event and prints promo materials for free. Thanks, Beth!
- History Committee summary of activities - Tom Martinelli
  - History Committee began in 2002- idea from resident John Pollock
  - Initial activities were based off of a neighborhood survey that reached 30% of neighborhood
  - Goal is to provide historical information on the neighborhood to benefit all 890 single-family homes in Westmorland
  - 88 history articles have been written for The Courier - reach out to the Committee if there is something you're interested in learning more about.
  - Annual history display table at July 4th event
  - Collection and archiving of old neighborhood materials (Couriers, phone directories, photo albums)
  - Walking tours - partnering with Historic Madison, Inc. (2011), Vernacular Architecture Forum (2012), and the Madison Trust for Historic Preservation (2013 & 2014). Next will take place again in 2021.
  - Information on keeping home remodels consistent with historical design compiled. Copies are available by contacting Tom
  - History books
    - Westmorland: A Great Place to Live - copies available at Sequoya, Village Bar, and Historical Society
      - Sold over 680 copies since 2011
    - Walking Tour book in 2012 - available free on handout shelf at Sequoya
    - Voices of Westmorland in 2014 - 19 families interviewed by 5 volunteers
      - 400 copies sold

- Village Bar history book- copies available at Sequoia and Village Bar
      - 200 copies sold
  - Oral interviews continue to be conducted
  - Developed the History Page on the WNA website in 2016 and added more content in 2018.
    - Requested assistance/management for this - contact Tom
  - Westmorland stone gates on Westmorland Ave & Mineral Point were built in 1929 and refurbished in 2019
    - Reproduction of original lanterns were welded and added
    - Stone was cleaned and tuckpointed
    - Westmorland sign was cleaned

#### Park survey of neighbors- Jesse

- 160 people responded to the survey
- Reviewed summary and key terms of the 5 questions asked (see attachment for the survey summary)
- Important note: This is just an evaluation used to guide further discussions and next steps on park updates and will not determine exactly what will be implemented. Further input and communications will happen with neighbors before any changes would happen.
- Next steps: board connections with Alder Martin. Future steps will likely include further input from neighbors, seeking of grants/other funding sources
- Question about an incident at the Park yesterday 3/9 with multiple police cars, police tape up - Erica called the Midtown Police Station today and the officer did not provide much information except to say that there was no crime and there is no threat to the neighborhood. Neighbors encouraged to call non-emergency police department themselves or subscribe to updates from the Midvale Heights

Neighborhood Association Watch (further information on their website) for further information

- Question about Glenway Golf Course future - Golf task force meeting took place last week on the East side - recommendations will be going to the Mayor and Council in May so stay involved if it is of interest to you. A survey asking about use and interest is available on the Golf Program website for anyone to take. Unclear what will happen.
  - Additional information: Past neighborhood plan staked claim to Glenway golf course so it is in Westmorland's area on paper. At that time, the Westmorland interest was that it remain green space if ever not used as a golf course in the future. Golf courses are under Golf Enterprises for funding, not City Parks. Glenway does make money for the City. When the City bought the land in 1920s it was originally meant to serve as an area to expand the cemetery.
- Question about presence of dogs in Westmorland Park - currently dogs are not allowed in Westmorland Park. Many neighbors have expressed strong pro and con feelings about dogs being allowed in the Park. The WNA has not taken a stance on this and has deferred to City Parks on this decision. Suggestion from neighbor that the WNA board take this issue up soon and seek out more input from neighbors. Many parks have recently changed rules on areas where dogs are allowed. Further information can be found here:
  - General information:  
<https://www.cityofmadison.com/parks/play/dogsInParks.cfm>
  - Recent community input:  
<https://www.cityofmadison.com/news/dogs-in-parks-madison-parks-seeks-community-input>

Recognition of the History Committee - Chris G

- Special thanks to John Brugge, Jean Schmitz, and especially Tom Martinelli for huge efforts to keep the neighborhood connected to its past and present.
- Tom mentioned that publicizing Westmorland helps with home values and makes the neighborhood more desirable to buyers.

## Water Presentations

- Joseph Grande ~ Madison Water Utility
  - Water Quality Manager for Madison
  - PFAS- group of man-made chemicals that have non-stick, stain-resistant, water-proofing properties that are often found in firefighting foams. Testing started after known contamination at Truax due to fire training activities. Testing methodology improved to testing 2 parts/trillion (ppt), much more powerful than previous tests (testing to parts per million). Well 15 off East Washington near Hyvee tested at 30 parts per trillion, prompting cleaning and testing in all wells. EPA established safe levels for PFOA and PFOS at 70 ppt combo. New evidence suggests reducing this to 20 ppt. Well 15 has been reduced to 12 ppt. Some evidence of PFAS was found in 14 of 21 wells, but all below 20 ppt. There are four main wells that contribute to Westmorland's water supply: 12, 27, 6, 14. All either had no PFAS detected or were less than 2 ppt.
  - To find more information on what water comes to your address, visit the Madison Water Utility Water Quality website - use the search engine for Wells Serving My Address. [Link](#). Or email [Water@CityOfMadison.com](mailto:Water@CityOfMadison.com) with any questions
  - Common drinking water concerns - various minerals, salt contamination
  - Question about hard water - all of Madison has very hard water, some worse than others. Well 12 is on the lower side of all City of Madison wells
  - Question - How does someone know if pipes are lead? Put a magnet against the pipe, if it doesn't stick it is either lead or copper. Copper is

typically fairly easily identified by copper color. Magnet will stick to galvanized iron.

- Question - does Brita filter take out significant contaminants? Typical store-bought filters take out chlorine, potentially some iron and manganese but these minerals are not an issue here, and do not take out calcium or lead. If they contain activated carbon, they can take out some industrial solvents. Specific filters exist which can take out lead and are labeled as such. PFAS may be removed somewhat but limited.
- Question - what's the best water softener? Water softeners on timers are not supposed to be sold in WI. Water softeners contribute as much to contaminants as road salt, so it is important to select a salt-efficient water softeners. Visit [MadSewer.org](http://MadSewer.org) for recommendations.
- Water quality reports are reported annually in May and are available online
- Educational tours are available, email if interested
- Phil Gaebler ~ City of Madison, Water Resources Engineer
  - Wingra West Watershed meeting 3/16 6:00-8:00 at Sequoya Library. More information:  
<https://www.cityofmadison.com/engineering/projects/wingra-west-watershed-study>
  - Willow Creek Watershed study will be completed next year
  - Green infrastructure study
    - First installations of this will be in conjunction with Toepfer, Holly, Euclid, St. Clair, Gregory/Cross street repair
    - More information:  
<https://www.cityofmadison.com/engineering/projects/green-infrastructure-study>
    - Next meeting 3/18 6:00-8:00 at Midvale Elementary
  - 2018 Flooding

- Significant impacts at Waite Circle, resulted in drainage changes near bike path. Drainage changed from a 5 ft diameter pipe to 6x10 foot box drain.
- Glenwood Children's Park is the drainage point for the neighborhood. Flood resulted in broken pipes that had to be repaired. Discussion happening about next steps
- More information: <https://www.cityofmadison.com/flooding>
  - Includes flood-prevention tips such as installation of a rain garden

#### Elected Officials

- *Carousel Bayrd*, County Board Supervisor representing District 8
  - She has been on the County Board for 14 years, representing Westmorland for 10 years.
  - Restorative justice reform is her top issue. Also has worked on projects related to the mental health budget, lakes and watersheds, birth to 3 programs, expansion of alternatives to incarceration, increasing of victims services budget, and bail reform
  - Major success: reduced jail population by 40% over the last decade