



Neighborhood Association
MONTHLY MEETING AGENDA
Wednesday, Jan 8th, 2020 @ 7PM
UWEC Centennial Hall, 1604 Park Ave.

Call to Order

- 19 people including 2 police officers and Dave Solberg
- Starting at 7:06

Approve Meeting Minutes from last meeting

- No quorum, so minutes not approved

Chair's Report

- Kevin wants to vote on getting a P.O. box for the 501c3 paperwork
- Sharon says there is some urgency in getting that, wonders if we can only temporarily use a city mailbox; Jeremy says he can ask tonight via email.
- Kevin says other option is to file it like we did last time. We can update with an address change down the road. Pat is still getting mail (is Pat the former chair?).

Treasurer's report

- As of Jan 10, we have a balance of \$1,953.51
- We are not sure how much is garden money and how much is general until clear up a few things on latest gardening sheet.

Proposed Hibbard Lot Traffic Flow Changes

- Big picture: the Hibbard parking lot and associated Garfield street project have been moved to summer 2021.
- Dave says this is because the University has not finalized a design yet. The University has hired a design firm to help with the parking lot plans, but they are not yet under contract. The city wants to do the street the same time the parking lot goes through. They need to know where the driveway will be before they match their street up with it.
- Dave said the City has been talking with the University for two or three years; design talks are starting now. Some earlier discussions with the University have been about safety. Engineering has brought up:



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- Right-out only
 - Right-in-right-out
 - Moving the entrance
 - Four different configurations of the lot
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- Dave says any time you have a traffic entrance via traffic signal to a major road, it's better than having an uncontrolled left turn for the sake of safety. This is the reasoning behind possibly pushing the entrance to the lot to Garfield—so all the traffic coming and going has to move through a signalized intersection instead of coming out straight onto State.
 - Dave does not have crash data for State Street at the Hibbard lot. He says that Leah is working on getting that information together. He is at the meeting to hear what the neighborhood has to say about the possibilities for the lot, without yet knowing the crash data.
 - Dave has received a petition from residents who live in the vicinity of the parking lot. The petition is against having access on Garfield Avenue.
 - Will Denson, who lives on Garfield across from the lot, feels quite strongly that we leave the entrance and exit to leave the way it is, possibly making Garfield entirely no parking.
 - Sharon says that any increase to parking at the Hibbard lot increases traffic, and doesn't solve the university's parking problem. She says that lot is mostly faculty anyway, and increased parking at Hibbard would not eliminate student parking in the neighborhood.
 - Sharon suggests more concentrated parking at the Davies/Phillips lot.
 - Sharon makes the point that the University eliminated parking along Garfield and at Little Niagara when they put in the new pedestrian mall.
 - Dave says it's not the place of the city to hold up a Hibbard parking lot re-do to suggest the University put in a parking ramp.
 - Susan would like to hear the pros and cons for the different possible entrances and exits.
 - Kevin points out that by closing off the turn on Park, we've created another problem.
 - Paul Hoff says that when he looks at Garfield as currently configured, there is already a significant flow of traffic, including buses and shuttles.
 - Dave brings up the possibility of eliminating parking altogether on Garfield and having bike lanes, or eliminating parking altogether on Garfield and not having bike lanes.



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- Jeremy is concerned about pedestrian safety on Garfield. He says it seems there's more pedestrian traffic on Garfield than on State, and wonders if the city will do a pedestrian study. Dave says they could. But his hunch is that there are the same number of potential pedestrian conflict points on State as on Garfield.
- Kevin wants to know how many parking spaces we would lose if we eliminated parking on Garfield. Will says it's about 17 spaces.
- Dave says the city will not be changing the width of the street. So if we have bike lanes, the street still has a full vehicle lane, and emergency vehicles could still drive down.
- Some discussion about a potential unidirectional path through the Hibbard lot and potentially changing the parking spaces to be angled.
- There is parking study open house in February to talk about more citywide parking issues in the neighborhood, including Water Street, Randall Park, Third Ward, Downtown, permit studies, meters, do-nothing, alternate side parking, all the other things the communities use, pros and cons.
- This parking study will be presented for public discussion on a Monday night.
- Jeremy asks about State potentially ever being narrowed around Garfield and Lincoln since there are four lanes there, making it more difficult to do left turns, and dangerous for pedestrians to cross. Dave says that stretch of State is not due to be re-done for eight to ten years.
- Paul says hypothetically if Garfield were left alone—and if it became very bike friendly, that could be really cool, could be a very inviting arrival to campus. He sees a lot to like. Snow removal, additional landscaping, nice entrance to the campus, especially if we were losing any vegetation to do an expansion (on the north side).
- Susan points out that the lilacs have already been cut down on the north side of the lot.
- Jeremy says we could require in the site plan that the Hibbard lot have trees in it so it's less harsh.
- Kevin says the big thing is the neighbors on Garfield wouldn't want the entrance to change, that's why we're here, to support our neighbors when something like this is happening.
- Jeremy mentioned that there is interest in having a stop sign at Frederick and Rust – just bringing it up, those neighbors don't know it was being discussed tonight. There are concerns about the morning student parkers. Some people have moved in there who have young kids and are looking for better safety.



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- Dave says the flashing lights for State and Roosevelt should be operational (soon?) for the whiteway lighting; the poles are out, the lights are on order and will be here later winter or early spring. There's been a delay in getting them delivered.
- Dave mentions a boulevard repair program for a stretch of Summit that didn't have good sod, and there hadn't been good weather to get it done this fall.
- Sharon mentions that she loves the roundabout at Lexington and State. Dave says the only complaints he's gotten on the whole State Street project are from some of the plowers that have to lift the wing blades for the roundabout. The gentleman who lives on Lexington gives him lots of feedback, loves it.
- Kevin notes that the flashing traffic sign down State Street hill slows him down. On the other side, the bike lane, where it's supposed to go to the sidewalk, is not getting plowed out. He has seen bicyclists use the lanes but they can't get off at that point. Nice to see bicyclists use them as intended.
- Dave ask if anyone has used the runnels? Nobody has used them yet.
- Susan says she likes the stairs a lot, but hasn't seen anyone sitting on the benches yet. Policy say they're being used.

Fundraising (Sharon Hildebrand 10 min)

- For door-to-door donations, we've raised \$795 to date, since November. There are still cards out there, still some donations coming in.
- For the Putnam Drive wagon ride, she has contacted Eau Claire County Extension 4-H Coordinator, she has put the word out to the 4-H club that we're looking for wagon drivers... for the Putnam Drive fundraiser late next fall... there will be costs related to doing that, they'll be significant: barricades, traffic vests, advertising.
- It would be good if we could raise funds apart from what we've been doing to boost the general bank account. Eau Claire foundation grants- we're in one of those categories, due the 20th, the category—a cultural category—outdoor activities, cultural activities, getting outside. Will put together a budget. Anyone who has done events, this kind of an outdoor event, if you've got some ideas for what some of the costs might be, get them on the list.
- The committee will be having another meeting.



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Announcements/Open Forum

- Plan Commission approved our neighborhood plan. That goes to the City Council this Monday, so if anyone would like to come to the meeting and testify to the greatness of the plan, go do that.

ECPD

- Officer Johnson, introduced a new hire, Rohilio, who will start on Sunday. Rohilio Gonzalez is a student at the university, last 15 credits left coming up, the rookie, the new hire at the department. He is getting acquainted with the neighborhood. Officer Johnson will be training him.
- Officer Johnson notes that there has been a rash of porch pirates. He urges neighbors to be vigilant, trust first instinct, if something looks amiss, if it looks like a duck quacks like a duck, etc. Suspicious person following behind UPS or FedEx vehicle, usually they're up to no good.
- Someone called with a Third Ward question: Do you have to post your driveway as private property for the sake of parking? A few years back the state changed the law for larger rental properties and businesses that have parking lots. Before, an officer had to write a ticket before someone could be towed. Now, with those bigger parking lots, if they have it properly posted, they don't have to call the cops first, the person can just be towed. On your own lot, people can also be towed right away without an officer writing a ticket.

Adjournment

Next Meeting

Wednesday, Feb 12th, 2019 @ 7pm @ Centennial Hall