

**Board of Directors Meeting
Summit Hill Association**

**March 11th, 2010
Minutes**

Members Present: Berhow, Dillin, Donnelly, Erickson, Haas, Hill, Kedrowski, Lindner, Lucke, McFadden, McGann, Norton Cermak, Pearce, Pramas, Vetvick, Wilbert, Winsor and Zambreno.

Also Present: Roy and Hilden (staff), Rich Laffin, Michael Carroll, Kay Willshire, Carole Pesek, Bill Pesek, Laura Henrikson, Melissa Hubmer, Brian ?, Wild Onion owners and managers (Daniel Martin, Nick Closmore, Jay Salmen, Linda Schaefer, Joe Schaefer), Taneiza Islam, David Regan (GABA) and Bob DeBellis

Members Absent: Bayliss, Dobson and Lawrence

President Pramas called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

1. Additions to the Agenda:

Kate Pearce requested that we consider using joint funds from the GABA/SHA Beautification Fund to help meet the HOURCAR fundraising goal.

2. Approval of Past Minutes:

Past minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

3. President's Report:

The relocation of the old Grand Place Bus Shelter roof to Dunning Field is on hold until Pramas can set up a meeting with representatives from Exeter Realty.

4. Executive Director's Report:

Jeff referenced his written report distributed Board members earlier in the week.

5. CPC/AA Report:

A written report was submitted for Board members. Diane Hilden is on vacation returning March 15, 2010.

6. Old Business:

There was no Old Business.

7. New Business:

- Review of ZLU Committee recommendation regarding Wild Onion Patio Liquor License application

Materials regarding the Wild Onion Patio Liquor License application and the ZLU Committee's recommendation coming out of its March 3, 2010 public hearing were sent to Board members before the meeting. The Wild Onion did not secure the necessary 60% signature requirement as required by city zoning code and therefore would need support from the SHA Board to go forward with their application to the city.

The SHA Board heard support for and against the Patio Liquor License application from both Wild Onion owners and from nearby residents. President Pramas made a motion to approve extending the Wild Onion's liquor license to include the outdoor patio subject to a set of seven conditions:

- That the patio liquor license would be on a trial basis and will expire and sunset on Sunday, November 14, 2010 at 9:30 p.m.
- That all service (both food and drink) must end by 9:30 p.m. and the patio must be cleared of all patrons by 9:30 p.m.
- That the Wild Onion will provide food & drink service on the patio only at tables and only to those seated at the tables. No stand-up service for any patron on the patio, and no loitering allowed by patrons on the patio for those not seated.
- That no music shall be played on the patio (live or recorded).
- That no liquor service be provided to any patron who does not order food.
- That the Wild Onion participate in a task force to be created by SHA to include neighborhood resident representatives, to address and minimize problems associated with late-night patron behavior.
- That Wild Onion assign full-time security to continuously monitor all Wild Onion patron parking lots from 9:30 p.m. to ½ hour after 2 a.m. closing, five days a week, Tuesday night through Saturday evening/early Sunday morning.

The motion to approve Extension of Liquor License for the Wild Onion was approved on a vote of 15 ayes and 3 naves.

8. GABA Report:

Chad Skally is the newly elected president of the GABA Board of Directors. SHA Board Members may contact Chad at chad@skally.com. The Doc Chop Award was given to Peter and Linda Quinn (owners of Café Latte, Bread and Chocolate and Quince).

9. Treasurer's Report:

Mark Berhow reported on monthly P&L for SHA.

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Development Committee

Meetings and Events

- March 24th – House Tour Committee meeting
- April 24th – Progressive Supper

- **House Tour Planning Committee**

Homeowner interviews are underway and will be taking place over the next month. Ad sales have just begun. We've sold 4 ads for a total of \$1680 thus far.

Colin McFadden set up our Facebook page - please join the group and invite others

to do so as well! We're looking into the possibility of having a House Tour banner made that could be hung over Lexington Avenue. Our goal is to have the Tour brochures printed and available for sale by mid to late June.

District Council Collaborative (DCC) on Central Corridor

The three "missing" stops along the University Avenue/Central Corridor LRT route are officially approved. They were put into the MET council plan for construction this month. With the three new stations the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has determined that there is no significant environmental impact by building the stations at Hamline, Western and Victoria. Lawsuits against the line are still pending including two civil rights complaints. There is one being filed by the Preserve and Benefit Historic Rondo Committee against the FTA, the MET council and the department of transportation. There is also another complaint filed by a group of Asian small business owners. The U of M has decided not to press litigation into federal court.

Environment Committee

The SHA Environment Committee met on Monday, March 8th. Our January and Feb events (Plastics workshop and Geo-thermal/alternative energy workshop) both went very well. The Committee will be focusing now on final HOURCAR fundraising, a summer plant exchange, Grand Avenue recycling initiatives, continued planning of a community garden, and as warm weather rolls in, working to maintain the Sam Morgan Prairie and Linwood Raingarden. At the upcoming April 26th meeting, long-time volunteer Judith Gavin will be showing Committee members the SHA underground watering system at Linwood and connection points that are used for watering the upper gardens and the Sam Morgan Prairie.

The request to use funds from joint the GABA/SHA Beautification fund for HOURCAR fundraising was put on hold by unanimous voice vote.

Pedestrian Safety & Traffic Calming Committee

The Pedestrian Safety and Traffic Calming committee met on February 16th. They had a special guest, Karen Sprattler, an expert on traffic psychology and traffic management tactics. They learned about some of the ways in which pedestrians react to calming measures, and some of the riskiest behaviors. She was also able to provide numerous data sources for learning additional information about neighborhood traffic statistics. There was an also continued discussion about the possibility for a pedestrian safety awareness week/month, and continuing to investigate the potential for a street art meeting. The next meeting will be Tuesday, March 16th.

Zoning and Land Use Committee

ZLU met on Wednesday, March 3rd to hear from the owners of the Wild Onion regarding their application to extend their liquor license onto their existing patio. This is a follow-up to a meeting held about a year ago when the ZLU and then the full Board voted to deny their request and asked them to work for one year on addressing the multitude of concerns raised by neighbors.

The concerns included excessive noise, alleged over serving of alcohol, drunken/disorderly conduct, garbage in the neighborhood, and others. The ZLU

received 11 emails from neighbors urging the denial of their request and 1 email from GABA in support of their application. The owners and management of the Wild Onion presented data showing that police calls had reduced over the past year and stated that they were willing to close the patio at 9:30 PM or dark, whichever comes first.

The committee also heard from several concerned neighbors who oppose the application sighting ongoing concerns. A few motions were entered and fell flat due to not receiving enough votes. These included a motion to deny the application, a motion to approve the application, and a motion to approve the application on a trial basis with a sunset to allow for a review after the summer patio season has completed.

Members of the ZLU expressed that there needed to be more of a compromise between the neighbors and the Wild Onion. In the end, a motion was made and passed to recommend that the full Board put together a joint task force comprised of SHA, Wild Onion, and neighbors to try to work out a compromise that can be then be forwarded to the City for in time for the City's Legislative Hearing on this issue.

The ZLU also met with Merritt Clapp-Smith, City Planner, to look at zoning uses in the District to determine whether or not properties are being used as they are zoned and whether or not the City should conduct a study to determine if properties used for nonconforming purposes should be rezoned to current uses. This would be a sort of 'cleaning up' of zoning on Grand Avenue. The discussion also addressed formula businesses and whether or not D16 should consider mandating a balance between formula businesses (businesses that replicate their model and brand) and mom-and-pop shops. The Committee is waiting for Merritt to send an updated map showing current uses and current zoning and will continue the discussion at the next ZLU meeting.

11. Announcements / Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Submitted by Annmarie Dillin