

Heart of the City

March 13, 2006, Café Carpe

Present: Anders Yocom, Beth Gehred, Lue Ehinger, Mary Gates, Mary Linton, Kathy Kaufmann, Jill Kessenich, Steve Tesmer, , Ann Engelman, Bill Camplin, Martine Koeppel, Kathy Misfeldt, Joan Callan, Walt Christiansen, Jae Ames, Rick Hill, Jackie Ames, Susan Lidholm, Jill Ottow, Leslie LaMuro, Chuck Ogg

Meeting called to order at 7:01 pm by President Anders Yocom.

Last month's minutes approved.

Announcements: Looking for people to do literature drops for Jefferson Elections. Citiznes Energy Coop on March 25 in Madison at UCC church. CSA shares available in Whitewater, Watertown and other areas. Recruiting encouraged. Voluntary dues are also encouraged. Welcome back to Kathy Kauffman.

Inspirational Moment: Lue Ehinger

Treasurers Report: Balance is \$785.00

Speaker:

Steve Tesmer introduced Joe Nehmer, Director of Jefferson County Parks Department. Joe emphasized that public use and resource-oriented recreation are priorities. Gave overview of WI Land Legacy Report: safeguard water, keep kids connected to outdoors, protect "pearls" (natural areas). Keep common species common, and promote partnerships (ie: Heart with Friends of Rose Lake). Working farms compliment natural resource areas—modern subdivisions are harder to work around as far as protecting natural areas. Dorothy Carnes Park—worked with Land Trust on this. Most recent addition is Mason Farm—east of the lake, 248 acres. 80 acres of this might have limited park activity. 45 acres of wetland will be restored. Park committee meetings are once a month—first Tuesday of month at Jeff. Cty. Courthouse. Master planning is under way for two more county parks. Natural resources advisory team—should contact John Pohlman.

Glacial Heritage Area: Would like to link parks with green corridors, and also to municipalities. The county is 16 months behind where we wanted to be in planning for this. County is concerened that we can't keep up with rate of population growth, when it comes to having parks to serve people. Example:Lake Mills may double in size over next 5-10 years. County has a solid land use plan, but it is being challenged—ie: townships want to be rural hamlets, so they can grow uncontrolled. Need to get involved with county and city zoning and planning committees. County website is a good resource. Jefferson County land use plan is the official "bible" of 2020 plan.

Input by Martine Koeppel: The best ways to preserve land is by building parks, buying land and buying development rights. Land Legacy resources come from donations and stewardship fund. Can there be layering of efforts—property owners, Rose Lake, Land Legacy, Koshkonog?

Committee reports:

Project: **Bark River Day on June 3, Parks Dept. will help, historic, birding, kids activities will be involved. Bring bag lunches, drinks and desserts provided.**

Earth Day trail cleanup on Saturday, April 22nd. Kathy M. will organize and give info to Out and Ed for press release

Outreach/Education: Got commitment for someone to take lead in Speakers Bureau—Bill Camplin. Have materials and Power Point model, and possibly some training.

Public Policy/Govt : Mayor's climate protection: working with list of 12 items. Understanding of landfills, recycling. Steve approached John Wilmet about resolution, and John seemed receptive. Beth took wastewater issue. Lue and Beth talked to high schools—want to do carpooling, etc. May want to have a forum, to get some public momentum behind it.

New business:

Attendance at County Board/Zoning Meetings Ann Engelman will organize dates of meetings, and recruit one volunteer to attend each meeting.

Beth Gehred will go to Landscape & Planning conference in Wisconsin Dells if we can sponsor. Approved paying for Beth's entry fee of \$70 to attend.

Geothermal referendum: split into 3-4 questions. Heart of the City supports the geothermal solution to achieve the school district's necessary HVAC upgrades.

Co-op America: Beth has info on Beyond the Wal-mart Economy. Needs to be put in front of city and county officials

Candidate Forum is coming up—no candidate from our group is running for City council. Need to get some one lined up for next year; have someone by October. Have a Master Plan representative and strategic plan for running for office

Kitty, Greg and Jill met with Rudy, Hope and Margaret about possible raingarden adjacent to carwash and bike trail. Hope & Margaret will put together a very basic scheme/punchlist that can be presented to the city

Next Meeting

Monday, April 10; 7:00 pm - Café Carpe. Peter Jacobs will talk about Land Trust.
Adjournment at 8:40 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Jill Kessenich