

**Stonefield Neighborhood Association**  
**Minutes of the 2018 Annual Membership Meeting**  
**April 12, 2018**

The Stonefield Neighborhood Association Annual Membership Meeting was called to order by President Luke Francois at 7:03 p.m. on April 12, 2018 in the Elm Lawn School Cafeteria. Residents from 58 of SNA's 200 Member households and one non-member household were present for all or part of the meeting.

Francois reviewed the Agenda and introduced Board Members Kristin Florin, Dennis Cliff and Treasurer David Diercks. He noted that David has decided to step down after many years as Treasurer and thanked him for his service to SNA. He also introduced and thanked James Dvorsky who served on the board for many years and has attended meetings the past two years as an Ex Officio member. Francois noted that Secretary Jon Ryan is traveling for work and therefore unable to attend and that Doug Caruso has agreed to take minutes.

**Minutes of the April 18, 2017 Annual Membership Meeting**

Francois noted that the minutes of the April 18, 2017 Annual Membership Meeting were distributed with the meeting notice and available on the handouts table. Garry Bunz moved to approve the minutes of the April 18, 2017 Annual Membership Meeting as distributed. Dean Frisch seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**Financial Report**

Treasurer David Diercks noted that the Financial Report for the period ending March 31, 2018 had been distributed with the meeting notice and distributed a revised version that included a few minor updates since then. He reviewed the report and invited questions. Rollie Boeding moved to approve the Financial Report. Mike Adler seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**Proposed Budget for 2018-19**

Diercks reviewed the Proposed Budget for 2018-19 recommended by the Board that had been distributed with the meeting notice and was available on the handouts table.

Rollie Boeding moved to approve the Proposed Budget for 2018-19. Kurt Sonnentag seconded the motion.

There was discussion. Jacci See briefly reviewed the Book Club's activities. Judy Fard gave a brief summary of the SNA July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade & Picnic.

The motion passed.

**Elections**

Francois noted that all directors and officers are elected annually. Kristin Florin and Dennis Cliff currently serve as At-Large Members of the Board and have indicated they are willing to continue to serve. He called for nominations.

Judy Fard moved to direct the Secretary to cast a unanimous ballot for Kristin Florin and Dennis Cliff for At-Large Director. Kevin Vogt seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Francois noted that current Treasurer David Diercks has chosen not to be a candidate for re-election after serving the association in that capacity for many years. He called for nominations.

Doug Caruso nominated Bill McCarthy for Treasurer. Mark Brunzell seconded the nomination. Francois called for more nominations. Hearing none, he declared the nominations closed and declared McCarthy elected by acclamation.

Francois announced that current Secretary Jon Ryan has indicated he is willing to continue as Secretary. He called for nominations. Hearing none, he declared the nominations closed and declared Ryan elected by acclamation.

Francois stated that he was completing his second year as President and was willing to continue in that role, but happy to pass it on if someone else was interested. He called for nominations for President. There were none. Kurt Sonnentag moved to direct the Secretary to cast a unanimous ballot for Luke Francois for President. Rollie Boeding seconded the motion. The motion passed.

### **President's Report**

Francois said he sees SNA's role as facilitating communication and helping the neighborhood come together as a community. He referenced the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade & picnic, the spring and fall socials, the SNA directory and the spring cleanup. He noted the great attendance at this year's annual membership meeting.

He said the SNA dues increase from \$15 to \$25 per year came from a motion by members at last year's annual membership meeting, not from the board. He said it's up to the members if they wish to change the dues.

Francois shared the history of the entrance sign at Stonefield and Gammon Roads that will soon be replaced with a new sign. He said concerns about the age and condition of the Stonefield entrance signs, and the location of some, had prompted SNA in 2016 to look into the cost of replacing them. The results were reported to members at last year's annual meeting and there was consensus that the cost was too great. The members at that meeting directed the board to investigate other alternatives, including other suppliers and the cost of repairing and refurbishing the signs. That information was shared and also included in a Nextdoor survey to get feedback from residents which was helpful to the board. By coincidence, the sign at Stonefield & Gammon Roads was severely damaged by vandals during the summer of 2017 and needed to be removed. An insurance claim was filed and the board learned that sign could be replaced with a better quality sign at substantially less cost than originally thought with the insurance settlement. The insurance reimbursement is only available to SNA if the sign is replaced. He said the final cost to SNA, which won't be determined until the sign is erected and the invoice submitted to SNA's insurer, is expected to be \$4,400 or less, perhaps substantially less. He also stated that the board had made no decisions and has no current plans regarding the other signs.

Francois noted that the Middleton Cross Plains Area School District has removed the split rail fence along Woodgate Road due to maintenance issues and the hazard it presented to children. He noted that many residents participating in a Nextdoor survey wanted to see the fence replaced and the board decided to formally request that in a letter to MCPASD. He said MCPASD considered the request but has decided not to replace the fence. They will proceed with removing many of the boulders that remain, but will leave some decorative stones in recognition of the neighborhood's name.

Francois reported that SNA worked with city officials regarding concerns about traffic and speeding in the neighborhood, particularly on Stonefield Road, leading to the placement of a speed measuring

device and sign for an extended period. He said the speed data did not meet the city's standard for further action.

He reported that SNA is looking into updating the SNA website. He acknowledged and thanked Jeff Mattox for his work on the website over many years.

Francois noted that arborist and landscaper Scott Harrington is donating a tree to the neighborhood and welcomed member input on possible locations for the tree.

He acknowledged the many years Robin Sweet has coordinated the Stonefield Garage Sale and noted that she was stepping back from that role. He said members need to decide if they want a garage sale this year and set a date.

Francois stated his intention to continue an emphasis on enhancing communication within the neighborhood. He noted the recent transition to a Google gmail system that offers more integration and features, including the possibility of conducting surveys by email.

There was discussion regarding dues, signs, communications with members and non-members, surveys and non-member participation in SNA social activities.

Jon DiPiazza moved to reduce the biennial dues from \$50 to \$30. Kurt Sonnentag seconded the motion. There was discussion. A vote was taken by show of hands. The motion failed.

### **Presentations**

Francois introduced Scott Harrington Landscape and Tree Service. He thanked Scott for donating free landscape consultations and lawn aerations as door prizes that will awarded at the conclusion of the meeting. Scott spoke and answered questions about ash trees and emerald ash disease and new treatment options that have become available. He also noted that his tree service yields both firewood and woodchips that he makes available free to neighbors. He pointed out that the wood chips should be allowed to "cure" for about six months before spreading so homeowners need a place to pile them before using.

Francois introduced Middleton Cross Plains Area School District Board Member Todd Smith who summarized a Facility Planning Committee process now underway to address anticipated growth in the school district. Smith said MCPASD is the fastest growing district in Dane County and is projected to grow by 4,000 students in the next four years. He said the district will be overcapacity at all three levels next year and that the high school is already over capacity. He encouraged residents to review the plan and options on the MCPASD website and participate in a survey now underway to gather community input on the options being considered. He noted that Francois chairs the Facility Planning Committee process and that it is large and complex issue. There was a spirited Q&A and discussion.

### **SNA Communications**

Francois restated his commitment to improving and enhancing SNA communications and communication within the neighborhood. He reviewed the various ways SNA does and can communicate with members and non-members. He noted that communicating widely is generally most beneficial but that some issues may be appropriately reserved for consideration by members who financially support the organization. He said distinguishing between member benefits and non-member benefits is necessary for any organization. He restated his commitment to enhancing broad communication within the neighborhood.

There was discussion.

Barbara Dale moved that email be the primary means for official SNA communications along with posting documents on the SNA website. Jerry Sielaff seconded the motion. The motion passed.

### **Reports**

Dean Frisch reported on the changes introduced in collecting, compiling and formatting the 2018-19 SNA Directory which was distributed to members attending the meeting and will be distributed the rest of the members soon. He said the data is now stored in a new SNA database and the goal is to allow members to update their data directly through a website portal.

Kristin Florin noted the steady turnover of homes in Stonefield and requested that members pass on names of new neighbors and contact information if possible so the Welcoming Committee can reach out to them.

Judy Fard reported that planning is underway for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade & Picnic and that an email will be going out in June.

Francois asked how many present may be interested in participating in a garage sale in May and counted six hands raised. Dates were discussed and the consensus was the weekend of May 18-20.

### **Door Prizes**

The following names were drawn and received door prizes: Kendra Deja, Jackie See, Kurt Sonnentag, Heidi Pease, Mike Lutz and Bonnie Kruckenberg.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.