

Minutes of ONDNA Meeting of October 5, 2023

Meeting convened at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom

Board Members Present: Dave DeYoung, Elma Gardner, Melody Boyer, Marnelle Gleason, Gerrit Mulholland, Angela Willson

Unable to Attend: Karen Gellen

Others Present: Daniel Harris-McCoy, Barbara Anderson, Jenny Figueroa

Guest: Patrick Sandholdt, Davis Fire Marshal

Review and Approval of Agenda: Unanimously approved.

Minutes: Minutes of ONDNA meeting of September 7, 2023 approved unanimously, with minor changes.

Guest: Patrick Sandholdt, Davis Fire Marshal, was introduced and invited to speak at our meeting regarding fire safety in Old North Davis and complications posed by alleys in our neighborhood. Patrick reported on the fire in the alley behind F street, where a garage had become engulfed in flames. The fire engine could not make it down the alley because heavy vegetation encroached on the engine. The engine then accessed the fire by the front of the house on F street and ran the fire hoses around the side of the house. The fire department must investigate every fire. The cause of this fire was undetermined. The homeowners' insurance company will come in and do their own detailed analysis at the microscopic level. In addition to the overgrown vegetation in the alley preventing the engine from accessing the fire, the fire department discovered their hose did not fit onto the fire hydrant. That fire hydrant had been broken and a replacement hydrant was on backorder. Instead of waiting for the order to come in, an unused fire hydrant in the bay area was located. This hydrant was installed. It was discovered at the time of the fire in the alley, the hydrant did not have the same hose thread as other Davis fire hydrants have. This resulted in a delay of putting water on the fire until they could pump water from the fire tanker truck. Since then, this hydrant has been removed and a different hydrant was installed that will fit the fire department hoses. Patrick advised that the vegetation in our alleyways be trimmed and comply with established code so that fire engines can travel through the alleyways.

Discussion:

A question was asked if the city can be more proactive in maintaining alleys. In addition, houses that may face alleys need a house number and there seems to be a problem with having that happen; having alleys named would also be helpful. Also, there were many people adding ADUs to their property and these units need to have a house number to get a PGE meter.

Patrick noted that the city cannot maintain alley vegetation that is on private property. The city is responsible for roadways but beyond city property, they cannot maintain a roadway.

Patrick mentioned the possibility of having the vegetation trimmed by the city and have the property owner billed for this service. He said the chain of communication would be for the fire department to notify the police department of the code violation of vegetation infringing on alleyways. A question was

Discussion-continued:

asked if the city public works could send out a notice to property owners regarding the code. Again, code enforcement would need to go through the police department.

In addition, Patrick said it was the homeowner's responsibility to make sure vegetation is clear of all power lines. If trimming is needed, PGE can be called to take care of this. Patrick emphasized that all homeowners should have any vegetation from the power line extending to the house cleared at least one inch away from the power line.

A question was asked about speed bumps on B street and whether this would be a problem for the fire department. Patrick said that the fire department uses main arteries in town to get to emergencies: F and B streets are main arteries. The fire department has a map of the arteries they use, which includes L street. A comment was made that L street has speed bumps and Patrick reported that the speed bumps were put in by city works without their knowing about the main arteries used by the fire department.

Patrick suggested we notify residents of OND of code enforcement regarding vegetation in alleys and around power lines. Patrick said he would talk with public works about safety issues for the fire department when faced with these problems. A suggestion was made that perhaps someone from OND could be a liaison with the fire department, such as an advisory committee. Patrick did not believe there was a need for this as he was available by phone. His office is in city hall.

#### Treasurer's Report:

Marnelle Gleason reported that the signature card at the bank had been updated and that the balance has remained the same, with no expenses or income to note.

#### Police Department Community Advisory Board:

Angela Willson said there was not much to report. Crime is up in the community. Most of the advisory board's meeting was about the bomb threats. There is no new information to report regarding this.

#### Neighbors Night Out, October 15, 2023:

Marnelle reported that the flyers were distributed to all residents of OND. She had received a few RSVPs since then. She asked for volunteers to help with the set up.

#### Neighborhood Projects:

Angela Willson attended an advisory meeting with the school board regarding the DJUSD property at 5<sup>th</sup> and B streets. She said that any piece of property not considered useable is surplus. The DJUSD property at 5<sup>th</sup> and B is considered unusable because the projected costs of repairs would be between \$3-4 million. Thus, the plan is to demolish the building. Angela said the school board is looking at two options: one would be to find someone who would be willing to trade a building they own for the property; and the second option would be to sell the property and use the money from the sale to buy a new property for the district office. Any money left over from this sale would go into the budget set aside for building repairs or the general fund. This property is 2.2 acres and could possibly support a development of 45-50 residential units. The district advisory committee may ask for certain specifications to a building on this property, such as number of stories. There may be some zoning issues as well.

#### Discussion:

A question was asked about whether option one is viable – swapping the property with someone. Is there any interest? Angela said that was unknown. It was mentioned that the property seems useable and perhaps it could be sold “as is” so that work can be done on the existing structure. Angela said that the DJUSD wants to purchase property that will last approximately 75 years and for it to be financially supported as needed. There will be another advisory meeting with the school board soon. Dave DeYoung stated that he will send out notices that these meetings are open to the public. A final comment was made that whoever buys the property should be award of the OND characteristics. A structure with community space would be most welcome.

Subcommittee Report on revising OND parking district:

Dave DeYoung stated that the subcommittee met and had a very productive meeting regarding this issue. One of the primary concerns was there will be several new developments in OND and it is important to protect residential parking and spillover. Boundaries of OND can be flexible regarding parking. Dave said that it would be useful to find out what are the parking needs of businesses on the west side of G street. He reminded attendees that the Lumberyard needs can be excluded from our parking district. Questions raised in the subcommittee meeting included if the DJUSD can be excluded from our parking district as well as the Newman Center. What do we consider our boundaries for our parking district? Dave noted that various ideas were introduced, including an exclusionary parking district and perhaps that option might be best. The subcommittee will finalize these issues and will bring their findings to the ONDNA board first, and then later to residents of OND.

Discussion:

Should ONDNA work with a city transportation engineer or the city council? A comment was made that our city council representative Donna Neville is willing to work with us in proposing a new district. The Davis Downtown Plan does state to have protective measures in place to protect neighboring areas. It was also indicated that both sides of G street between 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> streets should be a business parking district. Should we ask for a business parking option?

Pending:

All pending items were tabled.

Next meeting of OND will be November 2, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Melody Boyer, Secretary