

Quarterly Neighborhood Meeting – Slatterly Park Neighborhood Association – April 25, 2017

1) Upcoming neighborhood events:

- Tree Planting May 9, 4-8pm, planting 25 trees. Meet at 12th Ave SE and 8 ½ st SE on east bank of Bear Creek. Bring your own gardening gloves and a shovel if you can. Some shovels provided.
- Art on the Avenue: May 20 – SPNA will host children's arts and crafts booth – 1100 block of 6th ave SE
- Med City Marathon Water stop May 28, 6th St & 10th St SE. Contact R. Schubring if you are interested in helping out.
- Street Mural Painting: June 3 8 am – 12 pm. Freshening up the colorful corner at 5th Ave and 7th Ste SE. Wear clothes that can get messy. Everything else is provided.
- Art4Trails Sculputer: June 3, afternoon. Our new Slatterly Park sculpture will be unveiled. Created by Katya Roberts.
- Redeemer Church is holding a free concert featuring Jason Gray. June 14.

2) Emerald Ash Borer.

- Emerald ash borer is here in Slatterly Park. It is an invasive insect pest.
- 30% of trees in Slatterly are ash trees.
- If you have an ash tree you want to save, this is the year to treat it.
- Recommend hiring a professional to treat your tree if possible. They use a pesticide that is not harmful to honey bees. The types of pesticides available to consumers to treat ash trees are the harmful kind.
- The city puts painted marks on trees that need to be taken down. Homeowners might not get any other sort of notice.
- Removal of trees may happen swiftly, but stump removal may be slow.

More information:

- MN Dept of Agriculture: <https://www.mda.state.mn.us/emeraldashborer>
- University of MN: <http://www.extension.umn.edu/garden/insects/find/emerald-ash-borer/>
- Minnesota DNR: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/terrestrialanimals/eab/index.html>
- Rochester Forestry: <http://www.rochestermn.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/forestry/emerald-ash-borer-dutch-elm-disease>

3) Bethel Park and Ride

- Guests: pastor from Bethel, city transit planner, Mark Bilderback (city council)
- 125 spaces in Bethel lot.
- City did some traffic estimates of the number of cars that would be expected to enter at rush hour in the morning and evening. Morning starts at 5 am. Evening ends at 6pm.
- Most cars will enter on 9th street or 3rd Ave.
- Users will catch the city bus on 3rd Ave to complete their journey.

- May consider permit parking along 4th ave and other streets near the park and ride. Not a panacea, but might alleviate some of the concerns voiced by neighbors. Would need 75% of neighbors on a given block to agree to permit parking. And each household has to pay an annual fee.
- According to the city transit planner, park and rides are a big part of how the city plans to move people in and out of downtown and are a big part of the DMC strategy. They are looking at a park and ride at Bethel, as well as a park and ride at Kmart (across the street). The city has purchased some new buses.
- Pastor from Bethel expressed that the church wants to be a good neighbor and they value their role as a part of our community. He also emphasized the amount of “good works” that the church engages in and the ways they would use the money from the park and ride to do more.

Neighborhood concerns:

- Neighborhood would like to receive more information and better estimates of the impact on traffic on 3rd and 4th Avenues. Concern about peak times at 6/7 and at 5pm. There is often a long queue of cars at those times of day as it is.
- What happens when more than 125 people park there? Bethel has 275 stalls total and what is to stop more than 125 people parking there?
- Do we think that the park and ride will lead to less people parking on the streets and parking in the lot instead? Or will we just get more people trying to park here, with overflow parking on the streets? Once the park and ride is in place, will people who park at other, farther away park and rides try to park here instead since it's closer?
- Street repairs and improvement are needed in our neighborhood, particularly if there is going to be more traffic.
- There are already concerns about people parking too densely on narrow streets. Potential problems for emergency vehicles.
- Will city do a survey of riders on routes that run during rush hour on 3rd Ave. Specifically on 17 and 6B? Would like to find out how many of them already park in the neighborhood and take the bus.

Neighborhood position:

- Clear sentiment that neighbors are not in favor of the park and ride.
- Vote – should SPNA take a position? 12 for, 2 opposed, 12 abstained, 6 non-voting
- Vote – motion to oppose park and ride? 15 for, none opposed, 11 abstained, 6 non-voting
- SPNA will send a letter to the City Council explaining our position on the park and ride.
- SPNA members are encouraged to attend the open comment period before the council meeting where the park and ride will be discussed. Not sure when this will be.
- Ahmed may be putting together a petition, which we can also present to the City Council
- SPNA Board will coordinate a communication strategy to keep neighborhood up to date on future developments.

4) Kwik Trip Project

- Guest: Ken Jackson
- Kwik Trip looking into revamping the current site on 12th St and 3rd Ave SE. Looking to purchase four adjacent properties to allow them to build a new store and provide better parking and overall traffic flow.
- Kwik Trip has already purchased the property at 1140 3rd Ave SE. They are also considering purchasing 3 other properties but have not done so yet.
- Right now, they want to make sure neighborhood sentiment is with them before they proceed any further.

- Neighborhood has indicated that we are not opposed to the proposed project and want to hear more. If it goes forward, we want to continue to be involved.
- Kwik Trip will need to seek zoning change for the four properties.
- Mark Bilderback (our City Council rep) will stay in touch with Kwik Trip and will let us know about any developments.

5) Next Quarterly Neighborhood Meeting: July 25 – potluck at Slatterly Park.