**January 2021 President’s Report**

**Prepared for 1/12/21 Board Meeting by Ashley Gibson**

*In the final weeks of 2020, I met with several key stakeholders about our neighborhood. My notes from each of those conversations are below.*

* Linda Horvath and Angela Puerta, urban planners with the City on 12/1
	+ There are lots of great resources for neighborhood associations on the [Neighborhood Resources page of their website](https://www.cityofmadison.com/dpced/planning/neighborhood-resources/436/), including the names and contact info for all associations across the city
		- This includes the latest [Arbor Hills - Leopold Neighborhood Plan](https://www.cityofmadison.com/dpced/planning/documents/AHL_Plan.pdf) (done in 2013). This is a fascinating read - it includes a neighborhood profile and goals informed by in-depth, extensive surveys with many residents. I highly recommend everyone at least skim it. It’s several years old, but still what the city uses as a roadmap - though Linda acknowledged that several of the goals haven’t made much progress.
	+ Neighborhood grants
		- There are [several grants available to neighborhood associations](https://www.cityofmadison.com/dpced/planning/grants/1576/) - including a grant for a public art project (e.g. bring in a local artist to lead the neighborhood in creating a work that could be displayed in our park)
* Brandi Grayson on 12/23 (running for Alder)
	+ I was clear from the start that we cannot endorse candidates or use any of our communication channels for political communication
	+ She shared some background about herself and asked whether we would consider hosting a town hall/debate between her & Sheri Carter. *(see my notes on this idea below)*
* Alder Sheri Carter on 12/31
	+ She recommended engaging *all* neighbors by connecting directly with landlords to distribute newsletters and communication about events
	+ Lighting in AH - plan is in the works, and there is a meeting about it in January. I’ll follow up with Sheri to get the notes from that meeting.
	+ I asked Sheri about Brandi’s proposal to host a town hall/debate - Sheri said that there are several that will be arranged and she didn’t think the AHNA needed to take the lead on planning something. However, she suggested that we could use our communication channels to publicize the debates (and acknowledged that we cannot favor either candidate over the other).
		- *I think that this makes sense - we don’t need to get in the business of hosting debates - let’s leave that to the pros. But I do think it makes sense to share with neighbors how they can get involved and learn more about the candidates - as long as we don’t endorse either one. Let’s discuss at the 1/12 board meeting.*
* Police Captain Mike Hanson on 12/28
	+ Staying in touch with what’s going on: Mike recommended following MPD on Twitter & Instagram
	+ Mike said he & his team would be happy to send out the K-9s or mounted patrols for any events we hold (assuming we can host some in-person events in 2021). They’re looking for opportunities to build community.
	+ Traffic: He’s aware of the issues with speeding on Grandview, and reiterated that we can’t add speed bumps because it’s problematic for buses. Another challenge we could face is that when the city absorbs the town, we’ll be sharing resources with the area that’s now the town - not adding more officers.
	+ Traffic around Leopold: He’s aware that this is an issue. This used to be under the purview of community officers, but we no longer have that resource, and school resource officers are no longer going to be working in schools either.
	+ Bathrooms at AH Park: Only Community Parks get bathrooms - not Neighborhood Parks. The difference is that community parks have a parking lot so they can be rented out for events.