



FORWARD!

VOLUME 17, NUMBER 7 • JULY 2009

Rebuilding Politics in Dane County from the Grassroots

THANKS for a Successful Fundraiser!

By Dace Zeps

A BIG HUGE THANK YOU TO EVERYONE who came to the Garden Party, it was a great time. Thanks to all the volunteers who donated time, food, or other things—Yogesh, you rock!

And thank you to all the people who donated money to reach our summer goal of \$2500; it lets us keep doing what we're doing—work to make Dane County a better place for everyone, no exceptions!



Above: Jody Vandermolen and Betty Zeps, our hostess.

Left: DJ Fade-proof Y Slither.

Below: Jacque Pokorney, Florenzo Cribbs and Leslie McAllister.



Catholic Multicultural Center Re-Opening

By Salvador Carranza

AFTER THE DIOCESE OF MADISON decided to close the Catholic Multicultural Center (CMC) which had been providing services to the poor and communities of color since 1946, several community organizations convened by the Latino Support Network (LASUP) met to discuss what action could be taken to keep the center open. Almost immediately after the LASUP meeting, Monsignor Ken Fiedler, pastor of Queen of Peace Church in Madison, asked the Diocese to bestow the responsibility to keep the CMC open to his church.

A core group led by Queen of Peace's Social Justice Director Michelle Horton and Msgr. Fiedler, and made up of concerned Queen of Parish members as well as broad representation from the City, County, several Madison Catholic parishes, Catholic Charities, St. Vincent De Paul Society, Latinos United for Change and Advancement, LASUP and many others, started meeting weekly to develop a strategy for the long-term survival of the CMC.

An advisory committee has been formed to develop a long term plan to keep the center open. A two year budget has been approved. This will allow the advisory committee time to work on a more permanent solution on how better to utilize the facility and funding sources for the center.

The overwhelming response from individuals in Madison and throughout the Midwest to these grassroots efforts to raise funds, which included an appeal for financial support and a web site for donations, made it possible for Queen of Peace Church to decide to move forward and re-open the CMC most critical services on Monday, August 3, 2009.

Recent activities also include an open house at the CMC held on July 12. Also three of the Center's former employees have been rehired to start on August 3 to help with the meals and food pantry programs. St. Mary's Hospital has agreed to continue the parish nurse program formerly offered at the CMC, and Catholic Charities will provide a part time bilingual counselor.

Float Down the Yahara with Progressive Dane

By Norm Littlejohn

BRING THE KIDS AND JOIN US FOR A PONTOON BOAT RIDE AND PICNIC AT Tenney Park on Saturday, August 15. We've rented two pontoon boats to take leisurely trips on the Yahara River and a lake or two, starting at 5pm.

Meanwhile, we'll be picnicking near the shore of Lake Mendota. PD will supply chips and beverages—though no beer is allowed in this park. Bring a dish to share, and together we'll make a feast!

Games for kids and adults will burn those calories, and we'll wrap up the party just as the sun sets at 8pm.

There's parking at the southwest corner of Tenney Park, off Sherman Avenue, and more near the pontoon boat docks, off Sherman just north of the river.

Please RSVP by the end of July to office@prodane.org, or 257-4985, to let us know how many will come, and whether anyone in your group is in a wheelchair. We're asking for a donation to help cover the boat rental, but it isn't required.

Come enjoy a late-summer outing with your friends in Progressive Dane! Relax on the river, relish a picnic supper, and run with your kids—no running on the boat, please. See you there!



Forward! is the newsletter of Progressive Dane in Dane County, Wisconsin. Progressive Dane is affiliated with the Independent Progressive Politics Network.

Progressive Dane is a democratic, membership-run organization. The following committees and task forces meet in the main conference room at the Social Justice Center, 1202 Williamson Street, unless otherwise noted.

Steering Committee: coordinates major activities, oversees the progress of other committees, sets the agenda for general membership meetings. *Meetings open to all PD members.*

Co-chairs: Jacque Pokorney, juju_jacque@yahoo.com
Norm Littlejohn, normlittlejohn@hotmail.com
Next meeting: Monday, August 10, 7pm

Economic Issues Task Force

Contact: Rick Richards, syzygy1@charter.net
Next meeting: Thursday, August 20, 5:30pm

Education Task Force

Contact: TJ Mertz, tjmertz@sbcglobal.net
Next meeting: Contact TJ

Elections Committee

Contact: Lukas Diaz, diaz_luke@yahoo.com
Next meeting: Wednesday, August 5, 8pm

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Next meeting: Wednesday, July 22, 6:30pm,
Rosemary Garfoot Public Library,
2107 Julius Street, Cross Plains

Housing Task Force

Contact: Jacque Pokorney, juju_jacque@yahoo.com
Next meeting: Contact Jacque

Newsletter Consortium

Articles are always accepted from PD members.
Contact: Dace Zeps, office@prodane.org

Outreach & Fundraising Committee

Contact: Norm Littlejohn, normlittlejohn@hotmail.com
Next meeting: Monday, July 27, 6:30pm

Policy Committee

Contact: Brenda Konkel, brendakonkel@gmail.com
Next meeting: Sundays, August 2 & 16, 7pm

Transportation Task Force

Contact: Aaron Crandall, aaron.crandall@yahoo.com
Next meeting: Monday, July 27, 5:30pm,
Mother Fool's, 1101 Williamson Street

PRODUCTION AND CIRCULATION CONSORTIUM:

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Visit Progressive Dane on the web at www.prodane.org



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(608) 257-4985
office@prodane.org

What Issues Would You Work On?

By Brenda Konkel

A FEW MONTHS AGO, THE POLICY Committee of Progressive Dane, along with elected officials brainstormed a long list of potential issues that Progressive Dane members would be interested in working on.

With the help of the General Membership, we narrowed those issues down to eight issues: Clean Elections, Paid Sick Leave, Urban Agriculture, Regional Transit Authority, Kindergarten for Four-Year-Olds, Budget, Race and Immigration issues and Central Library.

The Policy Committee members then prepared position papers where we answered 15 different questions we generated to determine if the issues were ones that we should work on.

At the last General Membership Meeting the members evaluated the issues and identified questions that remain about working on the issues and voted on which issues should remain in the running.

The remaining issues are: Clean Elections, Paid Sick Leave, Urban Agriculture, the RTA, and Race and Immigration. Additionally, we agreed that we would be likely to work on the budget issues for city and county and perhaps school board as they arise.

NEXT STEPS

Currently, the General Membership has some concerns about the following questions we used to evaluate the issues:

- Can we win the issue, and what is the definition of winning?

- Will the issue bring positive PD media exposure?
- Will this issue offer a clear ending point?
- Will this issue give us opportunities to collaborate with others and work with diverse populations?
- Does this issue have size and scope that are beyond PD's reach?
- How can PD make a difference? What actions will we take?
- Is the issue Madison-centric, or does it reach beyond Madison?

The Policy Committee will continue to address these issues and work on the action steps for each of the issues. The General Membership will consider these issues again at the August General Membership Meeting, Wednesday, August 26, at the Monona Community Center.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

We need more people to work on analyzing the issues and having conversations about the pros and cons so that we can prepare additional information for the August GMM.

For those interested in assisting, we'd love for you to join Progressive Dane's Policy Committee for our discussions at 7pm on Sunday August 2 and 16, in the main conference room at the Social Justice Center, Williamson at Few.

Please contact Jacque Pokorney at juju_jacque@yahoo.com, or Brenda Konkel at brendakonkel@gmail.com, for further information.



Have a Have a

BEER
Caucus

Friday, August 7 • 5:30

Brink
Lounge

East Washington
between Blount & Livingston

cold one!

...there's always so much to talk about

Capital Area Regional Planning Commission and Growth Management

By John Hendrick

Dane County Board First Vice Chair

THE CAPITAL AREA REGIONAL PLANNING Commission (CARPC) determines how much urban sprawl Dane County needs. It was created in May 2007 and designated as the area-wide water quality agency to determine Urban Service Areas (USAs). The USAs are flexible boundaries around each city, village, and other urban area that determine how far sewers, and hence urban development, can extend into the countryside. CARPC replaces a former regional planning commission (RPC) that was dissolved by disgruntled town governments.

In its short life, CARPC has experience two major controversies—adoption of criteria for USAs in 2008 and rejection of a Mazomanie USA extension in 2009.

The adoption of criteria included a change in the old RPC policy for determining USA size. The old policy used objective criteria to determine the needed acreage of new development for the next 20 years and then doubled that amount in the name of “flexibility”. The new policy proposed to eliminate that doubling and allow “only” a 20-year supply of vacant developable land for each community. Critics predicted dire consequences from this decision, which have not occurred, except perhaps in Mazomanie.

The Village of Mazomanie has proposed a large USA extension to the east of the current village to be developed by Janice Faga. CARPC has twice rejected this development citing: 1) water quality concerns, 2) anti-sprawl arguments, and 3) the size of the proposal exceeds the 20 year need for vacant developable land.

This spring the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resource (DNR) rejected CARPC’s first rejection of the Mazomanie USA and directed CARPC to consider it again using only water quality criteria. This set the scene for an exciting CARPC meeting and public hearing on June 11.

On that evening, the 13-member commission gathered in the Madison City Council chamber to hear the public, including many Progressive Dane members, on the subject of Mazomanie’s USA extension, essentially a whole new village of hundreds of homes and some businesses located between two potential

trout streams a mile and a half east of the current village.

Speakers for the developer and the village described how any threat to the local streams or drinking water could be contained by engineering solutions. Many other speakers from the neighborhood and the larger Dane County community raised significant water quality concerns.

Two effective speakers on water quality were well-known UW professors—Cal DeWitt, who lives in the Town of Dunn, and Steve Born, who lives in the Mazomanie/Black Earth area.

After hours of testimony, the commissioners began their deliberations. Zach Brandon (appointed by Mayor Dave) led the support for the development. Larry Palm (ditto) seemed undecided. The appointees of the Dane County Cities and Villages Association lined up behind their fellow appointees from the Village

of Mazomanie.

In the end, an unusual alliance of Kathleen Falk’s appointees and those of the Dane County Towns Association produced the core of votes needed to reject the USA extension for a second time. Palm and Steve Hiniker of Madison also voted no. Falk appointee Kristine Euclide spent a big chunk of the commission’s time reading the detailed water quality findings that will support CARPC’s decision when it is once again appealed to the DNR.

Will CARPC continue to be a forum for growth management decisions or will the DNR override CARPC’s decisions and consign it once again to the ash heap of history?

Will Dane County continue to authorize CARPC’s \$800,000 tax levy if the agency is perceived as a toothless waste of money?

Stay tuned to the continuing saga.

Last Month at the GMM

By Dace Zeps

PROGRESSIVE DANE’S CO-CHAIR Jacque Pokorney chaired Progressive Dane’s General Membership Meeting held Wednesday, June 24.

Staff reported the Garden Party Summer Fundraiser was very well attended. She thanked those who donated time and money to help put on the event and successfully reached the goal of \$2,500 and reminded those who had not yet sent in their pledge to do so.

Salvador Carranza was invited to update membership on activities and plans to re-open the Catholic Multicultural Center. He has graciously provided an article detailing the good news about

the Multicultural Center, found on the front page of this newsletter.

County Supervisor Al Matano provided detailed background information on Transport 2020 and the Regional Transit Authority. A write up can be found in last month’s newsletter and handouts can be obtained by contacting the Progressive Dane office: 257-4985; office@prodane.org.

Brenda Konkel facilitated the rest of the meeting’s presentation and discussion on prioritizing the issues. Summaries were distributed, and a different member of the Policy Committee briefly reviewed each issue. Brenda’s article on this ongoing process is on the facing page.

Progressive Dane Assembly Is Taking Shape

By Norm Littlejohn

WATCH THE PROGRESSIVE DANE website, prodane.org, and August’s newsletter for final details on PD’s autumn Assembly. This event will be in mid-October, most likely a Friday evening and the following Saturday, and will focus on community organizing for progressive

social change and electoral success.

The program, venue and dates aren’t quite set, but they will be soon. We hope you can join us this fall as we explore ways—inside and outside of electoral politics—to achieve PD’s goals and build a better city and county to live in.

Stay tuned!

Mark your calendar!

Next Membership Meeting

Wednesday, July 22 • 6:30 p.m.

Rosemary Garfoot Public Library • 2107 Julius Street

(corner of Caesar, turn north on Caesar off Highway 14, which is Main Street)

County Report: County Supervisor Al Matano

Land Use in Western Dane County: Arnold Harris

Capital Area Regional Planning Commission: County Supervisor John Hendrick

Proposed Bylaws Amendment concerning new Progressive Dane branches — **VOTE**

Update from Policy Committee on issues development

Chair: John Hendrick, j7hendrick@aol.com

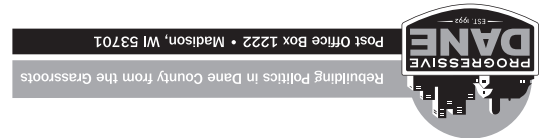
If you need an interpreter, materials in alternative formats, or other accommodations, please contact the PD office at 257-4985 one week in advance of the meeting.



VOLUNTEER NIGHT!
Meet great people and help with labeling our newsletter and other easy tasks.
Tuesday, August 18 • 5:30pm
PD Office, 1202 Williamson Street
(Social Justice Center—conference room)
As always, refreshments are provided!

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- I support the principles and purpose of Progressive Dane. **Sign me up!**
- Please renew my membership** in Progressive Dane.

Sustaining membership: \$ _____ / month (minimum \$5) \$ _____ / quarter (minimum \$9) \$ _____ / year (minimum \$12)

To pay by bank draft, please attach a voided check; or first month's check payable to Progressive Dane.

Annual single membership:

<input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Regular	<input type="checkbox"/> \$36 Basic	<input type="checkbox"/> \$12 Low Income
<input type="checkbox"/> \$250+ Benefactor	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75 Contributing

Annual household membership: \$100 Contributing \$75 Regular \$50 Basic

More than two adults in the house? Sign them up for \$25 per person. Number of additional memberships _____

Mail to: Progressive Dane, P.O. Box 1222, Madison, WI 53701 • For more information: (608) 257-4985

You can also join Progressive Dane at www.prodane.org!