**Summary of Meeting with City Engineering**

*source: Ulrike Dieterle*

Summary of Meeting with Sewer/Engineering, June 5, 2019, 2pm, regarding the N Blackhawk Ave/Bruce Ct/Heather Crest “resurfacing” project.

This meeting was the result of a request for more information about the current street construction. At a meeting of neighbors on April 6, 2019, it was suggested by one of the attendees we contact Greg Fries for more information about the street/sewer projects and specifically the current one in our immediate neighborhood. People do not understand the reason for the project or how the various projects around the City are tied together. The April 6 meeting was arranged informally without City participation. The City refused to meet even though the project had been delayed a year, the SVCA President had requested the meeting, and there were numerous questions unanswered. The project manager, Chris Dawson, was invited to the April 6 meeting, but chose not to attend. No one from the City was present.

As I stated in an earlier email, Greg Fries does not wish to have a separate meeting with SVCA at this time. Public Information Meetings (PIMs) have been and are still being conducted for the various water shed districts on the west side of Madison. He suggested neighbors come to a meeting later this summer/early fall which will be scheduled for the Willow Creek district. This district includes much of Sunset Village, Hill Farms, and part of the Regent neighborhood.

Liz Vowles and Ulrike Dieterle attended the meeting with Greg Fries, Janet Schimdt, and Lauren Striegl on June 6. The meeting was in response to an initial request by SVCA for a meeting about the sewer replacements occurring all of the city. The City staff, after a number of emails, suggested a few of us meet with them to discuss issues of drainage/flooding. It was clear right away that there was a disconnect between what SVCA wanted to discuss and the City staffer emphasis which was on flood and drainage issues. Not sure why this confusion came about because my initial email to Greg Fries was clear that we wanted more information/discussion about sewer replacements and the issues related to that topic. In any case, we were coming at this meeting from two different points of interest.

Greg Fries did explain/answer some questions which were posed in the initial email, e.g. that sewers generally have a life span of 80 years. The N Blackhawk Ave/Heather Crest/Bruce Ct project was planned because of a need for resurfacing. (this is questionable!) The new storm sewers are considerably larger than the old, but do feed into smaller lines at University and at the southern end as well. There is a large “box” underground at both ends of N Blackhawk Ave. which holds larger volumes of water. The grade of the new lines will cause water to flow down to University. Cost of this project is shared by the sewer assessment fund and the City. Other projects, e.g. the upcoming University Ave project of two years out, will be partially funded by federal funds. Greg also illustrated, using the sewer map, some of the unusual features of sewer line placement over the years.

We discussed why porous pavement materials were not incorporated. Due to the nature of heavy rains in our area and the clay soil, porous pavement materials are not effective. Also discussed the incorporation of rain gardens, which is something not included in this project. Greg Fries will follow up on this with other Engineering staff to see whether rain gardens could still be an option at least on one side of N Blackhawk. He will get back to us (Liz, Ulrike, Sue) about the possibility of rain gardens in this project.

Ulrike found it rather strange that Greg Fries was, at first, enthusiastic about speaking to SVCA neighbors, but within a few weeks that enthusiasm was replaced by diversion to another meeting with a slightly different emphasis. Ulrike several times expressed the hope that a separate meeting might still happen for SVCA, but it was obvious City staff did not want to do this. After the meeting, Ulrike spoke briefly to Chris Dawson, the project manager. He implied the second requested meeting did not take place because Alder Martin and Engineering decided it was not necessary.