Proceedings of March 8, 2012 Meeting of TLNA

Present: Richard Linster, Gay Davidson-Zielske, Joe Lusson, Lia Vellardita, Ben Halfen, Dave Furlan, Peggy Furlan, Thuy Nguyen, Richard Friehoffer, Michael Ryansky, Patty Prime, Jess Mullall, Bridget Maniaci, Carol Weidel, Tim Olsen, Echnaton Vedder, David Waugh (sorry for misspellings)

Guests: Matthew Straub, Bob Klebba, Gerrit Conger, Lonnie Richardson, Delia Gallo

Sec'y pro tem: Gay Davidson-Zielske

Meeting was called to order at 7:05. Wallner approved minutes and Vellardita seconded.

Guest Joe Cernigulia (Madtown Pizza) asked council for approval for request for beer and wine license. Olsen asked whether noise would be a problem "in eventuality that someone asks" why we approved. Cernigulia discussed how he would handle; Weidel calls question and approval is unanimous on voice vote.

Ken Backus, a neighbor, (not present) is objecting to City Inspection orders to cut his plantings that are out of compliance. He has listed 40-60 addresses that are also out of compliance and City inspected all as a result. Maniaci suggested that it was an ADA issue; Prime, Davidson-Zielske (D-Z), Weidel, Lusson, Olsen, Ryansky (Mike) speak to issue, all agreeing to the beauty of the plantings; Ryansky suggests a letter be written to homeowner expressing our appreciation, Olsen seconds, but D-Z supports strengthening it and Lusson says same letter should go to Backus and City. Ryansky agrees and moves such a letter, Olsen seconds. Passes unanimously on voice vote.

Matthew Straub, guest, is introduced as graduate student in Urban and Regional Planning.

Linster opens discussion of Metcalfe versus Urban Land Interest proposals for E. Washington Don Miller site. Linster mentions that he felt we should meet as a council before inviting Metcalfe to attend and several agreed that U.L.I. until recently had not contacted us as to the progress of their bid. D-Z asks whether it is appropriate to get a concensus of what TLNA wants, but not thought clearly appropriate right now. Waugh notes that it seems clear that neighborhood wants grocery, maybe both Metcalfe and Willy Street Coop. Freihofer objects to Willy for unknown reasons (prices?) Lusson asks if ULI has unlimited time to make a move or purchase, but Maniaci says it has been six months and she wants to "force their hand," but without "nuclear option," though what that is was not clear to me. Prime notes that ULI has not communicated well with us, but Metcalfe has. Ryansky proposes a letter to ULI asking for an end date to deliberations. Waugh believes we will know something soon. Somebody suggests a letter expressing a "fish or cut bait" (euphemism) approach. Laughter ensued and we moved on.

Committee Reports

Waugh notes that Gephardt proposal is moving along. In answer to question notes that they are requesting 3.4 million in TIF. Neighbor guest (sorry, didn't get name) says that is "money right out of our pockets"

Olsen announces upcoming meeting with Pat McDonald (past pres of TLNA) regarding two-way E. Johnson and E. Gorham surveys. Friehofer notes that survey reveals that residents of these streets have opinions that differ greatly from neighborhood who don't live directly on street. Olsen responds that 2-way is a bad idea if your concern is traffic flow and volume; good idea for quality of life and safety. Maniaci notes the same discrepancy. 200 people who responded live on one of two streets—Johnson and Gorham—and they generally do NOT want two-way, while 100 from neighborhood, but not two streets were generally FOR two-way. D-Z notes strong concern that if two-way means less parking, citing tenant needs) she strongly opposes it. Lusson counters that safety issues may over-ride parking issues. Tim says we don't question that two-ways are safer, but that the survey, from the point of view of a Ph.D, is not scientific.

Old Business: Children's Garden at Salvation Army –(sorry, I missed whether approved or not)

Proposed James Madison community gardens by Lusson and wife Alene rejected by City. Wallner notes that Parks "doesn't want to get in middle of community garden debate" Someone asked whether we can get a letter extolling virtues of community gardens. Nothing decided.

Waugh/Klebba requested letter of support from TLNA for their having gotten the approval of the Surplus Property Committee to purchase the Collins House. Linster lays down what he hopes will be ground rules for this contentious matter—reminding us of civility, requesting that we not "rehash" all the reasoning leading up to Committee's decision and speak only to the request. Waugh gives short history of Collins house for benefit of those new to council and guests, passes copies of charts noting location of other B&B's in Madison and comparison charts for two other cities—Ann Arbor, MI and Iowa City, IA. Asks TLNA to weigh in on whether W/K proposal is a good fit for neighborhood. Visitor Delia Gallo, daughter of other bidder Barbara Fant is recognized and notes that Surplus Prop and Parks Committee recommendation to sell to W/K is "non-binding on City Council" and that the meeting's testimony in W/K favor was based on emotions and friendship rather than other criteria. Wallner notes that proposal goes to Parks next week, but I (sec'y) did not catch date of City Council meeting. To summarize ensuing discussion, which was lively, question of fairness arose when we as TLNA wrote letter of support for both other houses (640 and 646) so Lusson believes we should write such a letter supporting Committee's recommendation of Waugh/Klebba. Others believed we should stop short of mentioning either plan, but support the committee, which in effect supports Waugh/Klebba. Ryansky said he would recuse self if comes to a vote since he has a conflict of interest through a family member. Lusson moves that we write letter that supports the work of the committee. Vedder seconds. During discussion, Olsen moves to "table" or put "on file" any further discussion. Question is called . Voice vote indeterminate. Show of hands comes up 6-6 tie. Linster, as president, breaks tie in favor of tabling. Motion is tabled. (9:15 pm)

Alder's Report—Maniaci says our next concern is "trees, trees,"—on the terrace mainly and how to preserve/deal with Emerald Ash Borer, esp in conjunction with reconstruction of E. Johnson planned for 2013. If we do go two-way on our streets, we may lose land necessary for tree roots and therefore trees. Meeting adjourns 9:25 PM. Minutes respectfully submitted by Gay Davidson-Zielske (sorry they are not in iambic pentameter or heroic couplets, but Echnathon is hard to rhyme)