

TLNA Minutes from May 10 meeting

Present: Members: Lia Vellardita, Jess Mullall, Richard Freihoefer, Pat McDonald, Michael O'Callahan Ryanjoy, Joe Lusson, Gay Davidson-Zielske, David Wallner, Alder: Bridget Maniaci Guests: Steven Schooler—Porchlight; Heather Stouder and Brynn Bremer—City Planning Dept; Sanford DeWitt—LaFollette Hotel; neighborhood residents: Lonnie Richardson, Matt Krueger, Bill Holloway, Rachel Holloway

- 1) Call to order and minutes approval (7:10) Gay D-Z moved approval, Wallner second

- 2) Heather Stouder and Brynn Bremer presented plans for demo of 700(?) and 800 blocks of E. Wash; Stouder: submittal of approval by May 23; DNR gives \$400,000 to clean up contaminated parts—plan is to level to one foot the contaminated soil and cover with cement—leave on site is safest. Not sure about rest of budget for project, but want to start 8/1/12. Pat MacDonald asks about billboards—Brynn answered that they will come down. D-Z asked about trees. There are two and will be kept (at least for a while) D-Z asked that any materials be recycled and not left as rubble as at Union Corners. Assured it was in plans. Stouder and Bremer state intention to ask TLNA to waive the waiting period so that demo can start. Pat McDonald moves that TLNA support the waiver of the 60-day waiting period. Wallner second. Passed unanimously on voice vote.

- 3) Steve Schooler from Porchlight gave handouts and brief history of Porchlight Projects, including their needing to leave winter 2011-2012 warming house instituted in Don Miller site on E. Wash because, as we just heard, it is being demolished. Noted their mission for the homeless and how there had been overlap between the chronically mentally ill homeless and chronic substance abusers, some of whom had caused problems with drunkenness in the neighborhood and some of whom were also Occupiers. Schooler noted that if a shelter were erected in the future, it should not be close to any Occupy site. Gave a couple of case histories of successful

homing of people previously reluctant to get off streets. McDonald asked where Martin Street was and about a third proposed site on South side, which “probably won’t happen.” Schooler says Porchlight outreach serves about 100 people a day in their various programs (substance counseling, job skills, etc) Asked by Wallner if there were any sites available downtown, Schooler said not right now, but if one developed it would be ideal, since library and capitol (previous places frequented) were closed off due to construction and protests. Urged us not to judge majority of homeless by the minority of troublesome people.

- 4) Kevin *O'Driscoll* from ULI gives update on plans for 800 block of E. Wash. Looking for purchase and sale agreement before plan to meet with TLNA monthly to hash out what exactly the buildings would be and look like. Showed past achievements on chart (Lincoln School, etc) and stressed how quickly they can move—24 N. Webster was approved 4/1 and will have several complete units by 9/1. Says they are trying to respond to concerns from Richard Freifofer and Richard Linster that Willy St Coop idea does not cut it and that a more “full-service” grocery will be implemented if possible. D-Z asks if sketch he brought will resemble final project—Not much is answer. Richard Freihofer asked if there be a five-year wait before anything goes up on site? K.O. replied - No, 1st bldg will be up in first year. B.M. asked if they really think two groceries are possible on spot. K.O: not likely. Joe Lusson: brings up the fact that rumor is that ULI is “sitting on” property and asks other questions about jobs, where employees will live and parking. ULI said that they had plans to build parking ramp “where it’s not too ugly” (Crow outside Garden apartments flies through cawing loudly, and just like President Obama’s discussions about gay marriage in a garden full of birdcalls, I couldn’t hear all answers!) LV asks “When will ramp go in?” A: Phase III. There ensued a confusing discussion about where housing was going in and during which phase, whether there would be parking across street, and what better frontage use was possible., but ULI said 79 units of housing planned. Someone suggested pharmacy and ULI rep agreed to entertain notions of what neighborhood wants/needs in their monthly meetings with us. Someone suggested a smaller body than whole

board be instituted for these meetings. B.M. talked about TIF and cost implications—brings up Edgewater precedent. Joe Lusson said he's no fan of tall bldgs but why no taller in plan. ULI: Tall bldgs cost more –not planning to go beyond four stories.

- 5) Sandy DeWitt (8:20 pm) discussed idea of a small “hostel-like” European style, independently owned hotel going up somewhere near 700-800 block of E. Wash. Showed drawings of proposed LaFollette Hotel, said they had approached owners of Mautz Paint site first, but were discouraged for several reasons, including another potential buyer (Hovde) buying up lot. Stressed that they are not “real estate speculators,” Restaurant manager Christopher Berg already involved and are not big chain, but rather wanting European model of charm, with eight hostel rooms renting for maybe \$35.00 a night. Promises 110 rooms. JL asks about success rate of start-ups. He says they have hired manager with good record. Asks TLNA to endorse idea. Joe Lusson moves as follows: TLNA board is excited by the potential of a 100+ room boutique hotel with restaurant run by Chris Berge as presented by Sandy DeWitt in the proximity of the 800 block of E. Wash to benefit the neighborhood and Breese-Stevens Field.” Gay D-Z second; unanimously passed.
- 6) Pat MacDonald reported on going to City Council meeting at which 1-way vs 2-way Gorham/Johnson (called “GJ” hereafter) neighborhood plan was discussed. Feels that the narrow study that was done did not really take into account known facts about what happens to other, similar cities (even some bordered by rivers, similar to our isthmus situation) when 1-ways instituted long ago, in the 1950's are allowed to persist. Citing negative affects on home ownership and businesses, PM implied that the City knows this, but refuses to take into account the fact that construction will begin in 2013 and won't at this time be considering 2-way GJ. Feels a sort of “renegade” group pushed the idea of keeping streets one-way. Pat was looking for support and urging people to reintroduce notion, with a more comprehensive study, or else just change the Neighborhood Plan passed years ago which only calls for “looking at” feasibility of going back to “2-way.” B.M. says she looked at old maps in Mayor Dave's office. Present Mayor Soglin (in

her opinion) is pushing fact that there is not enough money or motivation to do another downtown grid study—BM believes that any new comprehensive study not be built in a way that would preclude more discussion of 2-way GJ. Dave Wallner: is there really any support outside neighborhood? (not sure what answer was—many voices)

Joe Lusson: We are locking both E. Gorham and E. Johnson into perpetual rentals. Not fun to live on these streets. LV: The 5/15 meeting very important.

7) Alder's Report:

Item 1—Das Kronenburg and 700 block of East Dayton. Item 2—BM spoke to someone at Lapham School about impact of Land of Lakes Dairy site and what impact that might have on school. Item 3—Letter from Sherman resident James Young asking that we form groups to help clean up trash in neighborhood parks. Gay D-Z expressed interest to LV since she is already free-lancing at cleaning parks on daily walks. BM urged interested parties to contact Ilse and Rudy Hecht who are already taking care of flowers. Item 4—James Madison Park—seeking to get feel for what we want to happen there to take to City Parks Commission . Community Gardens already approved, but not money in place yet. We want more usable shelter. Item 5—Salvation Army and pushing them to come up with plan Item 6—LaFollette School and Owl Creek project. Proposal has been made to cut funding in half for late-night campus run busline #81, which will result in 30-minute wait. 3200 hours a year need to be cut according to BM—figures from Transportation Planning Committee, which will start having their monthly meetings one day before TLNA monthly meetings, btw.

8) Davidson-Zielske unveiled plans for poetry contests (2—haiku by 18 and younger and by over 18) to be publicized in upcoming newsletter. Response was underwhelming but she reassured that no money was wanted right now from TLNA—no prizes yet. Richard F. moves that we approve idea of poetry contests. Pat M. seconds.

9) Meeting adjourned 9:15 PM.

Submitted by, Gay Davidson-Zielske