

TLNA Council Meeting

May 10, 2018

Festival Foods Conference Center, 7:00 pm

Present: Patty Prime, Tyler Lark, Martha Classen, Jonny Hunter, Marta Staple, Jessi Mulhall, Bob Klebba, Cameron Field, Keith Wessel, Patrick Heck, Senay Goitom, Elena Satut-Duncan, Karla Handel, Andy Adams

Absent: ***Bob Hemauer, Meghan Conlin

Guests: Alder Ledell Zellers, various community members (see sign-in sheet)

Call to order 7:01 pm

Welcome, introductions, approval of April minutes. 10 min.

Moved by Patrick, seconded by Martha. Minutes adopted.

2. Neighborhood officer. 10 min.

91 calls for service last month in the neighborhood. About a third of them were related to Reynolds Park/Salvation Army/Festival Foods (retail theft). MPD has been doing a lot of proactive work in Reynolds in the mornings and early mornings. Salvation Army calls have been instigated by persons who work there and call in.

Bob K. notes that signage has been added to parking lot next door to Salvation Army to enforce loitering. He notes that with warmer weather, the loitering seems to have increased. Patty notes there is another meeting on Salvation Army on the 25th. Officer Jason Freedman notes that it is important that it is now posted because it helps enforcement. He notes that a brief burst of enforcement will have a deterrent effect on poor behavior. Patrick asks what can be done about people littering and hanging out on the boulevard area. MPD notes that there are certain ordinances, like anti-littering, that can be useful for such situations.

Martha asks about the James Madison Bucky on Parade statue being dumped into Lake Mendota and notes concern that individuals responsible may harm other property in the neighborhood. MPD notes they are aware statues will be magnets for inappropriate activity.

3. Pasqual's requests support for Taco Fest. 15 min.

Rigina MacNaughton - rigina.macnaughton@gmail.com

Pasquals and the Isthmus are here to ask for support for granting approval to serve alcohol in their parking lot one day a year, on July 21, for "Margarita and Taco Fest." They envision 20 vendors, with a ticket selling goal of 1,000. They propose the event will be from 4-8pm, with a hard close by 8. The event will use the whole parking lot by Pasqual's. Patrick notes that about 50 more parking spaces will be eliminated for the event, so approximately 50 more vehicles will be expected to be throughout the neighborhood. They are partnering with Union Cab for safe taxi rides and anticipate having a bike corral within the festival for expanded bike parking. No one recalls receiving any negative feedback on the event that was held last year.

Bob K. moves that the council support Pasqual's Taco Fest. Elena seconds.

Tyler asks if there is something they can do with breathalyzers to support safe driving habits. Isthmus has tried to get something to that end at the festival but has not found a reasonable option.

Patty calls the question.

Council unanimously approves the motion to support the change to license to premise to allow the increased attendance and liquor sales in the parking lot for one day. This approval is for only a one year change in the license to premise. The idea is if it goes well they will be back to the council next year for another approval.

4. Revisit request for temporary alcohol ban at Reynolds Field. 25 min.

Cameron Field

Cameron introduces the topic, noting that this discussion was started at the March meeting. Then, the council voted down the idea of a temporary alcohol ban, but a large number of the council members abstained from voting because they did not have enough information or time to digest the issue. Since then, a robust discussion has occurred via email among the council members, with information and observations exchanged on behaviors in the park, especially noting behavioral changes as the weather got warmer this spring. MPD records show 50 incidents or check property calls (some of these may be self started by MPD) in the month of April. Observations of the park include numerous incidents of people becoming so drunk they are taken away in ambulances or police cars. The council is being asked again, out of concern for public safety, to consider a temporary alcohol ban in the park to discourage the excessive alcohol consumption that has become the norm in the park and impacts other peaceful recreational users of the park and playground.

MPD discusses and clarifies numbers because of Alder Zellers question regarding what "check property" means. They note that they have been sending more police to the park for preventative measures, so many of the incidents that say check property may not necessarily be calls from citizens but self reported check ins by MPD officers.

Jonny asks if we have numbers for calls from Orton Park or McPike Park. MPD notes that they see a lot more service calls to Reynolds, but part of that is because they are been patrolling the park more.

Patty notes that we also discussed whether it makes sense to advocate for a general city wide ban.

Alder Zellers notes that she is asking the council to consider this ban, and she is requesting the council make the recommendation because she is representing the neighborhood. She has been meeting with MPD and the rangers to get a sense of what they are seeing. Alder Zeller says if she thinks safety demands something needs to be done, then she may push for a ban without the neighborhood support if it is not given tonight.

Tyler notes that it is our purpose to improve the neighborhood and call attention to emerging trends prior to reaching crisis proportions. So he thinks we should engage in the issue and not shy away from it. He encourages every council member to vote one way or the other, but not to abstain given the time we have had to discuss the issue.

Martha makes a motion to move the council recommend to appropriate city body that there be a temporary ban in Reynolds.

Karla seconds.

Senay notes his concern is any alcohol ban be enforced fairly. It is not clear to him in practice how that would work. He asked whether we have a sense of how often the park is used by people peacefully for alcohol use, or use in addition to other ancillary uses.

Cameron notes that it is rare to see anyone else using alcohol in the park other than the crowds that tend to consume too much and cause behavioral problems.

MPD Officer Jason Freedman chimes in that they have a policy of slow compliance over enforcement. They don't try to arrest everyone. If people are not otherwise offending the law, they will likely receive a warning at first. Most people will comply, the only people that won't are probably the ones that will otherwise end up causing problems anyway.

Jonny asks what the drive was for clearing the top of State Street. MPD Jason Freedman notes that there are a lot of stakeholder interests up there that were concerned. Groups, organizations, business owners, individuals, government, but not a neighborhood council.

Patrick notes that he thinks a fair number of people enjoy a beer after recreating and leave. His concern is that those people, who are not causing any problems, will still do that and get away with it.

There would be a two week warning period, then a 90 day ban.

Patty notes that she and Ledell met with Kevin who is the manager at Festival Foods to discourage the sale of certain alcohol. Ledell will be following up to help apply additional conditions to their alcohol permit. Festival Foods is in support of a temporary ban.

Patty notes on Next Door people are having similar issues in Demetral Field behind East High.

Bob K. notes that he had a conversation with Brandon Andrews, a bike polo player. He notes that polo players are concerned about being able to enjoy a beer after playing.

He notes that he lives in James Madison Park and sees similar issues. He questions why the neighborhood council is being asked to address this. He is concerned about equity.

Martha calls out how many bars surround the park, and that it is not a giant sacrifice for people who want to drink to walk less than a block to one of the many bars.

Jonny notes he hates this process because it is not comprehensively dealing with it, but he thinks it will be a positive impact for the neighborhood.

Patrick notes that we need to communicate with nearby neighborhood associates.

Jason Freedman says this will not solve the problem, but not doing this will make the problem unsolvable. He notes that a lot of officers are frustrated with the behavior because they don't have the time to sit and wait for behavior to occur, so a ban would help them better patrol the park and prevent situations from escalating to the levels of drunkenness or poor behavior that we have seen recently.

Patty calls the question. Motion is to write a letter requesting a temporary alcohol ban

Voice Vote - all ayes, 3 nays.

Motion passes.

Ledell notes we are talking about other possible improvements as well. One difficult topic is the top of the water utility. She notes they are considering a gate that would control access to the top of the water utility. She also notes that we are looking at a camera on the top of the utility building to capture criminal activity. The third thing she says is to have a sign at the bottom of the water utility stairs and top to state the purpose of the top of the water utility.

Tyler notes other infrastructure improvements in the future, such as adding an extra stairwell. Cameron notes he would like to see better lighting throughout the park.

MPD thanks the council for supporting the ban because it shows support for his officers, who have the same diverse concerns and opinions just like the council.

5. Beacon update. 15 min.

Jackson Fonder - jfonder@ccmadison.org

Beacon is six or seven months in. He is here to give an update because he is on a tour of neighborhood associations.

The Beacon is a homeless day resource center. It is open 8-5 365 days a year. There are 17 non-profits in the building right now to serve as resources, and he sees 25 by the end of the year. There have been about 160 people visiting the site every day. Over 100 people shower a day, 25 loads of laundry, 130 people eat lunch. 35 guests obtained a job in April alone, and 10 got housing in April. He notes they are very surprised at how many youth and families they are serving. There is a shuttle now that picks people up and drops them off at

night shelters. January/February/half of March was the low for the project in terms of violence, drug use, etc. He says the resource center is running like clockwork now.

Patty notes we appreciate how hard he is working. She asks if guests help pick up litter or if it is just volunteers? His hope is that guests eventually get to that point, but right now it is volunteers.

Senay asks to what extent the Beacon coordinates with other shelters in the areas. He notes that it has been easy to establish partnerships with those groups. Although, he says some people are territorial and don't want to partner.

Bob K. notes that the neighborhood was concerned about the Messner site about a year or so ago. He notes that we are now seeing an increase in activity that was of concern with the opening of the Beacon and the clearing of state street. He requests more communication from Beacon to hear about issues more frequently. Jackson notes he is always on the road talking to various groups, businesses, neighborhoods. Jackson says he is all ears for feedback and he responds to each email containing comments or suggestions.

A few months ago he instituted a code of conduct that guests must sign and that has helped enormously, and he has become more fast and loose with suspending guests that violate that code. This has led to a dramatic decrease in police calls and negative behavior.

Martha asks how the ban will impact his guests. Martha asks him as well about what will happen with the center during the summer. He says he think it is a smart decision to institute the ban. He expects the center will see a rise in traffic with the summer.

The Beacon Eagles is a softball team. They have been practicing in Reynolds and are in a city league.

6. Support PITP and 100 year celebration with your time. 10 min.

Marta Staple

Sunday June 10th from 4-7 in the Park. There will be artists making a chalk mural and local high school students are making the promotional materials.

There will be an old-time feel party to celebrate the 100 years of Tenney Park on a Sunday in September.

There are a few ideas for making sure the neighborhood celebrates the historic diversity of the neighborhood.

There were four options for flags to celebrate 100 + year old homes. Number 1

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/nakeddekan/2874119718/in/album-72157607397219718/> chosen by vote to be the flag to be distributed at Party in the Park. Marta attended a festival fatigue meeting and notes that it was largely related to MPD noting its officers were frequently drawn to the central district and expected to police a fatiguing number of events.

6. Houden development update. 10 min.

Patrick Heck

Plan commission is considering the proposal on June 4th. Even though the proposal has morphed some, he didn't think it was worth the time to reconvene a steering committee.

7. Bike to work station 5 min.

Let's choose a date!

A bike to work station is going to be placed in Reynolds Park. Jonny is getting bagels, Patty is getting coffee.

Thursday June 7th is the date for the work station, from 7-9am. Patrick volunteers to help.

8. Council chair reports. 10 min.

Jonny emailed a report.

Jessi notes deadline for newsletter is nearing so get it out by party in the park.

9. Elected officials report. 15 min.

Solar panels will be installed on the Lyric this summer. The other half of the Stone House block is moving forward with a development proposal. The aim is to have offices, no housing. Neighborhood meeting is likely on June 20th regarding the development.

The Breese Stevens contract is going to city council.

Diverter will be at council on May 15. The one neighbor who spoke against the diverter at the meeting has changed her opinion and is now in favor of the diverter.

A development on Butler is being proposed again with different dimensions to address previous concerns from neighbors.

May 14 – Public input meeting on James Madison Park at Gates of Heaven.

10. President comments. 5 min.

One question was raised, which was whether the TLNA should be a non-profit or not. The committee decided it would make a lot of sense to be a non-profit because we can then take donations as legal write offs. Jessi notes that 501c3 is a lot of effort financially. Martha requests this topic be raised in a future meeting.

Martha moves to adjourn, Karla seconds

TLNA Development Report

For TLNA 10 May 2018 Meeting

By Patrick Heck

See TLNA development website for more details.

-- Houden Properties (700 block E. Johnson, south side)

This proposal, which is opposed by TLNA Council, has again been revised. Details were sent in earlier email to the TLNA listserv, the TLNA steering committee, and TLNA Council, as well as the TLN Facebook page, asking for input. The major changes are that the 4th floor has been removed and the 2 new buildings are connected with a glass walkway on the 2nd and 3rd floor. The rooftop decks on top of the 3rd floor are also connected.

Plan Commission consideration of the proposal's conditional uses and rezoning request has been postponed until June 4. If it passes PC, then Common Council is now likely to consider the rezoning request the next day on June 5. Watch Ledell's weekly emails and the TLNA development site for info about those meetings. Public testimony will be accepted at Plan Commission and Common Council.

The proposal was before the Urban Design Commission on April 11. The UDC's opinion was generally that the design, the then 4-story height, and front-facing ground floor walls were fine, but there were some reservations expressed about the scale of the new buildings and their impact on the rest of the block. UDC also approved the moving of 2 existing houses on the 700 E. Johnson block to the double lot at 827 E. Gorham. That portion of the proposal will also will be seeking approval by Plan Commission. As it stands, and if the proposal is approved, 4 homes would be demolished, 3 moved, and 4 remaining on site.

If the City approves the Houden proposal, demolitions of existing houses, moving of others, and construction of two 27-unit apartment buildings with some ground floor commercial space and a parking level underneath would begin shortly after approval.

-- Messner Site (1314, 1318, and 1326 E. Washington)

Gorman & Company, partnering with Dryhooch (a veterans service organization), won Dane County's Request For Proposals (RFP) process for a developer/operator for a potentially mixed-use and/or affordable and market rate housing development. Their proposal has been posted on the TLNA Development website. There will be additional County considerations of the proposal, e.g., negotiations surrounding funding from the County's Affordable Housing Development Fund, the ground lease, etc. District 2 County Supervisor Heidi Wegleitner plans to ask that any awarded county affordable housing funds include a condition that 12% of the apartments be reserved for homeless families regardless of veteran status. Gorman and Co. are reportedly supportive of this concept.

The developer will now begin the usual City of Madison development approval process. As is typical, Alder Zellers called a neighborhood meeting so the chosen developer can present their concept and take initial input. That meeting, cosponsored by Supervisor Wegleitner, took place on May 8 at Christ Presbyterian Church. A TLNA steering committee will now form where finer details of the proposal will be discussed and neighborhood input will be addressed and potentially used to improve the proposal. Meeting notes from the May 8 meeting will be posted asap on the TLNA development site for the proposal.

-- Renaissance Property Group (Blount/Johnson)

Construction for the new 3-story E. Johnson building (next to the Caribou) with ground floor

commercial space and 21 micro-units has restarted. Excavation for the new 8-unit apartment building at Dayton and Blount should start soon – the house at that corner was demolished. The 3 remaining homes on Blount behind the Caribou/Laundromat will see exterior improvements.

-- The Lyric and The Breese (1000 block E. Wash)

The Car-X building is expected to be demolished soon. There is still no word on plans for the vacant eastern portion of the block, including the Car-X lot that Stone House purchased.

-- Salvation Army (630 E. Washington)

No new information has come forth; the project remains on hold.

I have a few traffic updates to report.

First, both the board of public works and PBMV committees approved the construction of a diverter at Blair and Mifflin, the common council meeting is on the 15th and I will be attending to testify in favor. I did testify at PBMV and saw opposition from a few residents and Terrance Wall but the committee voted 5-1 in favor of the diverter.

Also, there was a bike-car accident at Dayton and Ingersol on April 24th and no one was injured but since it is such a high traffic intersection for the school a crossing guard has been approved and will be going to PBMV for approval.

Construction projects affecting us this year will be the Blair street construction and in 2019 they will be doing the second half of E. Johnson.

While it is not in our district the Common Council did decide to approve a buffered bike line on Winnebago Street. This was a controversial choice but I do feel like the council looked at the long-term solution of having better bicycle and pedestrian traffic over the parking. The Mayor did veto this but an override might happen.

Jonny