

Minutes  
Tenney-Lapham Neighborhood Association Council Meeting  
August 24, 2011

Council Members present: Richard Linster, Patty Prime, Denise Breyne, Patrick McDonnell, Joe Lusson, Michael Ryanjoy, Alyssa Kesler, Ryanjoy, Alan Crossley, David Wallner, Lia Vellardita

Guest: Kay Enright, Bridget Maniaci

1. Called to order at 7:07pm.
2. Patrick moved to approve July minutes, Joe Lusson moved to approve the special August 8 minutes; Patty seconded for both. Minutes approved.

3. Guest: Kay Enright

Principal of O'Keefe Middle School. Monday and Wednesday this was school registration. 473 students registered, more than projected (440). O'Keefe proud of challenging students; added new sections of math and reading to challenge students more. Last year was the first year of Read180, due to a donor's \$30,000 contribution. The schedule has more of an art and music class focus – all 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders must take; 8<sup>th</sup> graders have Phy Ed four days a week yearlong (change from semester-long Phy Ed). The school will have retreats next week to honor students, teachers, and academics, which is one aspect of her fundraising focus. She wrote a grant to gain a salad bar, which they got from Whole Foods. New nutrition food director who is amenable to the salad bar and other initiatives. The school does activities with an emphasis on community building: 6<sup>th</sup> grade class went camping; 8<sup>th</sup> grade class last year did a day to ice skate together; other things activities included social dancing, walking around Lake Mendota, as well as other ideas that the both students and staff come up with. She highlighted the creativity of teachers, and how they come up with ways to make things work: some teachers wrote letters and fundraised for new furniture, which they got.

Richard asked what she thought the most pressing need was for the students and school; her response was to finance Youth Frontiers, as well as keeping up with new technologies in the classrooms and schools (interactive white boards). David W. asked if they have a core of teachers and volunteers; she said they did have a lot of volunteers, including the Parent-Teacher group, as well as students from the UW-Madison. Alan asked if AVID was coming to O'Keefe; she said it was but they needed to find someone to run it.

Lapham Principal left to be the superintendent of elementary schools. Patrick asked if she could account for the increase for the increase in enrollment; she said a lot of students will come from shelters. Joe Lusson asked if she knew how Lapham was doing; she didn't think the school board would eliminate Lapham. Patty asked if they were affected by the mass retirements; they were, they had seven retirements this year, but she did gain new hires she thought were excellent. Michael asked how large the faculty was; she responded 67 members. Denise asked if there were any alternatives at O'Keefe; she said LEAP, TLC, SAPar programs were there. Denise asked about donating to an alternative programs; Kay said that donations would have to be made specifically to them. Richard

asked her to think about if there was anything the neighborhood organizations could do to support the school; she said she would think about it and ask her leadership team. David mentioned that we could open up the newsletter for something about O'Keefe.

#### 4. President's comments.

Richard mentioned the successful TLNA garage sale.

He also mentioned the special August meeting, followed by a meeting with Bridget, Patrick, and Mayor Soglin. He also reminded the council of the Don Miller properties meeting Thursday Aug 25<sup>th</sup>. There was also a meeting for the properties on Gorham St. the City was selling. He raised the issue of planning the Annual Meeting and advertising it in the newsletter. He has been in touch with the nominating committee, and while he couldn't speak to any progress of it, asked that all council members express their wishes for the next year.

He also mentioned the possibility of having Fred Mohs from Capitol Neighborhood Association come to the next meeting. Mr. Mohs had approached Joe Lusson back in June about meeting to discuss our neighborhoods' common interests, including the Don Miller properties .

Richard mentioned Marina Dupler will most likely be leaving the neighborhood and said it will be a loss to the neighborhood; she estimated she will leave anytime in the next three to six months, and wasn't sure what she could do for the committee, though Richard said we would figure out some things she could help with before she leaves. He also suggested TLNA give a wedding and going away present to her.

#### 5. Reports of officers.

Lia Vellardita: nothing to report.

Denise B: nothing to report; she just got back from long vacation.

Patrick: reminded the council to see the progress of the new Tenney Park shelter. They sold large Mendota tiles, and 293 small tiles (completely maxed out on tile sales). It will be opening early December, doesn't know yet about reservations. Bridget asked if there was any extra money (since they came in higher in donations than projected towards the end). Fundraising was over \$300,000 plus the John Wall family \$250,000 donation, as well as \$500,000 from the City (not counting the bridge, which has been redone). David Wallner asked if anyone has done anything to recognize Mary (chair); he mentioned an evening event in December which could work to honor/commend her.

Joe Lusson: There has been massive turnover in renters in the neighborhood; he mentioned someone is redoing a porch on Gorham St. on his block, which will look nice, and will have renters in September. He said it was exciting to see investment in the neighborhood and that block specifically. He and his wife have gotten the restoration plans approved for 625 Gorham St. by the City, as well as a prospective buyer, who is waiting on their 18 month restoration plan. He saw Landmarks staffer by the boathouse with shingles (boathouse needs new shingles), which he thought was a good sign. Patrick asked about a house on moving truck on the 500 block of Johnson St.; Bridget mentioned it was an owner who needed to re-do the basement foundation; she said the owner will also be building on the side of the house as well, though he hasn't submitted plans to the City yet (shouldn't need a variance zoning).

Patty: nothing to report. Richard reminded the council about the Salvation Army bbq, which we gave a donation to them, and is happening on the 27<sup>th</sup>. The budget is close to being final but isn't yet.

Michael: attended a meeting at Christ Presbyterian Church about their renovation plans as reps for TLNA. The Church considered it the 25-30 year renovation plan, and was soliciting ideas, including how TLNA could use the space during the week. It was a brainstorming session, and they're very early in the process, so if people have ideas, they should send them along to the Church committee. Michael will pass along any news from the committee as he finds out. Richard was also present, and highlighted the ideas of the use of the kitchen as well as large, dramatic productions. Bridget asked if they had a theme that was driving the renovation; Richard responded that they felt that they didn't need to increase their footprint, and to re-conform the space they currently have. The renovation was not prompted by an increase in membership but mostly to focus on more programming during the week (so the space wouldn't sit empty), and a focus on youth programming, and a library bookmobile and reading.

Alyssa: did not get around to all the blocks in her captainship, but has had fun meeting people on the blocks she has covered. She suggested perhaps tweaking the membership drive next year in terms of time. She mentioned how the good timing of the block captain party with the garage sale (and how the garage sale was a good way to advertise TLNA).

Alan: the garage sale exceeded his expectations. There was a craigslist ad, Bob Shaw created a Google Map, and notices were sent to other neighborhood listservs. He said he wouldn't pay for the WI State Journal newspaper ad but found most people saw the craigslist ad. He's going to think about what time of the summer to do it (a lot liked August, some suggested earlier). So far he's gotten donations of \$129 from seven families, plus more possibly on the way. He's been asking for feedback from participants; it's been really good so far. He also mentioned that the food pantry donations are picking up; he reminded the council that he's accepting Saturday or Sunday drop-offs on his porch, 459 Sidney St. David asked about family memberships, Richard mentioned there would have to be a bylaw change advertised in the newsletter and voted on at annual meeting.

David Wallner: He was at East High School today, and got a copy of the new newsletter.

Mary Kelley, the principal at East, is next on his list to bring in as a guest at a TLNA meeting. Mentioned again that the Principal at Lapham left, and they're in the hiring process. He also mentioned brochures for fundraising for new Central Public Library (from the Library Foundation). The move out will begin in mid-October, and will be a store front operation nearby the current location. He mentioned the Community Budget Conversations that will focus on various topics. ([cityofmadison.com/budgetprocess](http://cityofmadison.com/budgetprocess)) Bridget mentioned a long form survey online. He mentioned an event on October 6<sup>th</sup> (beer chocolate fundraiser) for the new Library. On the 17<sup>th</sup> of September, he and his wife as well as other neighbors will have a backyard party; he asked if there was a possibility of a TLNA donation to the event.

7. New Business: approval of Lusson/Tierney proposal for 640 E. Gorham St.

Joe Lusson discussed his proposal. They would replace inappropriate backside picture windows. They would likely put a half-porch on back pending approval of Landmarks and state Historical Society. Some of the renovation would include removing a cistern,

boiler, HVAC system, and lead paint, plus repairing roof, gutters, back stairs, fireplace, electrical system. They would also put in as many green features as possible (including an energy audit). A big aspect is to honor it as a single family house. He and his wife have been investing in neighborhood and restoring historic houses for years and have good track record. Lia moved that TLNA approve support for the Lusson/Tierney proposal, and Patty seconded. Discussion ensued: Alan didn't feel it was TLNA's role to support this. Alyssa asked what the original impetus was for selling the houses. Bridget explained that the houses had been deteriorating and aging with no owners, David mentioned that the City's parks plan as well, such as moving the houses for park space, but that plan was eventually abandoned. Patty responded to Alan's comment that after hearing about other neighborhood councils, that she interpreted Joe Lusson's request for support as by saying that the council likes the proposal and doesn't like it more than any other proposal, that it isn't a recommendation to the committee. Patrick was in support of the Lusson/Tierney proposal, but thought that if we make a statement in support of this proposal it does feel as though it is a statement against the other proposal (and would like to see the author of the other proposal have a chance to state case with council); he doesn't want us to make a recommendation unless we have invited the other proposer to the next meeting but that would be moot. Joe Lusson sought to withdraw request for support from TLNA, but Richard implied more discussion needed.

Richard asked the group to think about the possibility of a special meeting to decide what proposals to support.

Michael liked the Lusson/Tierney proposal, and pointed out that Joe Lusson sought our support while the others did not approach the council about this; so if the council put out an invitation and if the other proposers decline, then we should give support to the proposal. Patrick wondered procedurally if the council could table the seconded motion for the purposes of offering an invitation to the other proposer and if the invitation is declined, untable and proceed with voting on motion, and if the other party does accept invitation, then create a special meeting. Patrick moved to table the motion with the understanding that the council will invite the other proposer (not Walden since it is a global property), and if the invitation declined, then go forward with original motion. Alan seconded the motion. Joe Lusson said that if the council pursues this, then he would like to do a more elaborate presentation, and clarified that his initial request was for an endorsement. Michael suggested a vote of confidence as opposed to a recommendation. Vote on first second motion to table, motion failed. Vote on first motion, David Wallner abstained. Motion for TLNA to support Lusson/Tierney approval approved. Richard will draft letter and send to council.

#### 8. Report of public officials: Bridget.

Bridget talked briefly about the meeting for the E. Gorham properties. Committee members now will have chance to individually score proposals. The next meeting will be September 8<sup>th</sup> 4:30-7pm and committee should have recommendations/suggestions by then. Possibility of opening the RFP process for some of the properties. She mentioned the concern of submission deadlines for the referendum process, which could slow down 6-8 months. Change of legal status would require zoning changes and referendum, but Joe Lusson said officials weren't planning on changing the legal status. David Wallner suggested the alders ask for an exemption from the ordinance to avoid city-wide

referendum. David also said that the City advertised on two city websites, a brokerage firm, news articles, and a couple other places. Richard had asked due to the fact that one of the properties had one RFP. As for opening the RFP process, if there is no resolution to middle house, Mayor Soglin willing to free up funds (part of \$40,000), as middle house needs work. Richard thought that committee felt 640 E. Gorham St should be residential, and felt they should re-open the RFP process for 646 E. Gorham.

Meeting Sept 8<sup>th</sup> about discussion for map subarea 19 and 20 at Senior Center (look at map and pick out property), open house.

She mentioned meeting tomorrow night, 6-8pm at Christ Presbyterian Church, for three Don Miller proposals the committee has chosen (ULI, Rifkin, Gebhart, though ULI still under consideration) and reminded council members to come.

She also mentioned budget coming through as well (levee increase), which could be a big fight between Mayor and City Council. David Wallner mentioned how many City departments have fee options that could be raised so as to prevent lay-offs and/or cuts.

Bridget supports some cuts to Police and Fire and wants to take levee to 4.9%. Bridget asked for feedback from neighbors.

9. Adjourned at 9:44pm.

Respectfully submitted by Lia Vellardita, secretary.