

TLNA Council Meeting

August 9, 2018

Festival Foods Conference Center, 7:00 pm

Present: Patty Prime, Martha Classen, Jonny Hunter, Jessi Mulhall, Bob Klebba, Cameron Field, Keith Wessel, Patrick Heck, Elena Satut-Duncan, Karla Handel, Andy Adams, Bob Hemauer, Meghan Conlin, Richard Linster

Absent: ***Senay Goitom, Tyler Lark, Marta Staple,

Guests: Alder Ledell Zellers, MPD Jason Freedman, Michael Reuter, Marcus Hawkins, Jon Jenkins, Doug Peterson, Nick Crowley, Martha Claasen, Josh Schmitt, Andrew Serri, Eric Knepp

Call to order 7:01 pm

Bob H. made motion to approve the minutes once the corrections are made. Will correct minutes before approval. Seconded

Vote passes via voice vote.

1. **Welcome and introductions**
2. **Neighborhood officer report**

Pick up in activity at James Madison Park in the last couple of weeks. A couple of overdoses in the last few weeks. Summer is a hard time to enforce poor behavior in the park because of the foliage, number of people in the park, and the size of the park.

3. 1114 Sherman Ave. remodel seeking conditional use permit

Courtney and Nathan Greenwalt

Current garage is not usable for a standard pickup truck and not connected to home. Hoping to add a mud room and renovated garage that is more usable. They will also tear down a storage shed on the property that will be replaced by the garage. The garage will be double deep on one side. All of the neighbors are supportive of the project.

The back of the house facing the lake will be expanded slightly toward the lake.

They are seeking a letter of support to the plan commission from the neighborhood. Bob K. moves to provide a letter of support, Cameron seconds.

Patty calls the question - passes unanimously via voice vote.

4. Request to make alcohol ban at Reynolds Field permanent

Patty notes that a temporary alcohol ban went into effect in Reynolds Park in mid May or early June, and was set to run for 90 days. As we are coming up on the end of that time, we are going to have a discussion on making the temporary ban permanent.

Ledell Zellers notes that neighborhood support for a ban is an important consideration for a ban, as is input from MPD. The last time this has happened was OB Sherry Park and Mayfair Park in 2013. The recommendation goes to Parks Commission, which makes recommendation to Common Council to make an ordinance change.

Ledell notes that alcohol has been banned in most downtown parks, but nearby McPike and Giddings do not have bans.

Patty notes that there has been a lot of discussion on the neighborhood message board and people have submitted electronic comments.

Josh then says city attorney would draft the ordinance and send to the park commission for approval. An alder needs to sponsor a ordinance to get it in front of the parks commission.

Patrick asks Josh if we should let the ban expire and see how things are and reserve the option to put another temporary ban in later.

Doug asks if the problems that are being encountered are serious enough to warrant a ban. Marcus makes a comment that he would like to drink a beer in the park. He wants to keep drinking in the park.

Andrew Serri notes that the board of the Starliner Condos building represents 24 units and board voted to support an alcohol ban. They are directly across from the park and note the difference is night and day with the ban. He notes that Marcus is from a separate condo building.

MPD notes there have been a few changes all at once. He agrees that total calls for service have gone down and things have gotten better. He notes MPD has spent virtually no time in the park since the ban has been enacted. MPD cautions that if we get rid of the ban, the police won't be able to fix the problems, they don't have enough officers to give it enough attention.

Josh notes that he only has one full time park ranger, and a few seasonal rangers.

Jonny asks what happened to the people that were drinking there?

MPD notes that some of it migrated down state street, some of it went to James Madison Park.

MPD notes that almost all the parks in the central district are alcohol free.

Patty notes the neighborhood association is meeting with the Salvation Army.

Bob Hemauer is ambivalent about any alcohol ban. He thinks programming in the park would be preferable. Absent any leadership though, he notes the ban is having positive results. Bob Hemauer says the ban won't be fairly enforced, it will be enforced against poor people.

MPD notes officers have discretion. They will look at each situation on a case by case basis. He notes that the purpose of a ban is to stop unwanted behavior caused by too much alcohol.

MPD notes it is entirely reasonable for an officer to confront people drinking in a park that has alcohol banned but not saying anything if there are no complaints and the people are peaceful, not exhibiting any poor behaviors.

Patrick asks if it is possible to have a permanent alcohol ban and a ban on alcohol permits.

Eric Knepp, superintendent of the parks, says that situation does not exist now.

Patty notes there are equity issues.

Cameron notes the ban has been tremendously successful and the park is safer than ever, and any equity concerns are that the behavior issues before the ban prevented equitable use of the park, and now the park is being used by more people of all backgrounds. The problematic behavior that occurred in the last year is almost entirely from white park users, so this policy is in no way racist.

Keith notes that maybe usage of the park would change the culture.

Alder Zellers notes that Festival Foods doesn't sell small liquor bottles anymore.

Andy Adams notes that his wife would feel unsafe walking through the park at 7 in the morning, but that has now improved since the alcohol policy changed.

Richard notes he doesn't think people have a right to drink in all public places and this council should support the majority of neighbors, which means supporting the ban

Elena notes she wonders if activating the park would have an impact after the ban expires.

Jason Freedman, MPD, notes that activation doesn't happen 24/7.

Jessi notes there is no public bathroom. She notes that Lindsey Lee, the owner of Cargo Coffee, said people are shooting heroin in his bathroom.

Martha moves to request the ban become permanent. Karla seconds.

Bob Klebba notes that James Madison has these same issues and an alcohol ban there doesn't help.

Park Commission notes they meet once a month.

Jonny notes the quality of life difference between the ban and no ban is clear, but he is uncomfortable with the police having discretion to enforce the ban.

Martha says if we request a permanent ban, that there is a public process for neighbors to have their voices heard.

Patrick notes there is collateral damage with respect to equity concerns and his friends of color will spread the word to not go to the park in the event a police officer treats them differently than a white person in the park.

Question is called -

Aye - 4

Nay - 7

Bob Hermaer abstains

Motion fails.

5. Funding guidance for events, projects, and donations

Patty notes we have a budget through TLNA, and have historically given little grants and gifts, but have no way to track this or get the word out that TLNA has money to spend, so we looked into how we can best spend our money.

Discussion ensues regarding budget committee and process for spending money.

A change may require a change in the bylaws.

Patrick notes he wants a streamlined process.

Jonny asks what we are being asked to do.

Patty notes she wants to the proposed changes, give it six months, then evaluate to see how it works.

Bob K. moves that Nick and Tyler finalize what they have presented and it then be adopted as event program funding proposal.

Seconded by Martha.

Passes unanimously via voice vote.

6. Party in the Park report

Typically we give half of the money raised from PITP to the school and half to parks or other projects. We raised [insert amount] dollars this year. 1000 is proposed to go to an artist in residence, and the other 750 to be earmarked for next year. And the other 1750 be used for park projects.

Motion to disperse the funds as Patty described by Bob K. Elena seconds.

Passes via voice vote.

7. UDD-8 change proposed for Stonehouse site

This proposal would allow just this one block to have a slightly higher height limit, just a little shorter than the Constellation or Galaxie building.

8. Council chair reports

September 24 - James Madison Plan master meeting at Christ Presbyterian Church.

Carolyn and Keith have been working on a webpage expansion for the 100 year home celebration. He notes you can submit a contact form and populate the webpage.

Bike diversion is up and going as of today.

Patty started petitioning some of the homeowners to get some speed humps implemented.

Membership has grown from 207 to 220.

Cash dues paid were an additional 130 dollars

Tuesday October 16 is Taste of Tenney.

9. Elected Official Reports

Alder Zellers notes the comprehensive plan passed.

The 700 block of East Johnson Street is moving 2 houses. That will result in cutting down 9 street trees on Gorham and 9 other trees will have limbs trimmed. These are on East Johnson and Blount/Gorham are being removed due to tree being in poor condition anyway. Alder Zellers is exploring who in the city can act on this issue. She doesn't think adequate notice has been provided to persons affected by the removal of the trees.

10. President comments

The centennial celebration is happening at the end of the month, volunteers are needed. The discussion on non profit status will be delayed until another date.

11. Adjourn

Bob H. moves to adjourn, seconded.