

TLNA Meeting Minutes
Thursday, August 8, 2019
Festival Foods, 7 PM

Present: Patty Prime, Cameron Field, Keith Wessel, Martha Classen, Alder Patrick Heck, Jesse Mulhall, Andrew Serri, Tyler Lark, Julie Persin, Madeline Kasper, Meghan Conlin

July Minutes moved for approval by Bob, Seconded by Meghan Conlin. Passed via voice vote.

1. Welcome and Introductions 10 min

Guests Include: Amanda Burch, Jason Hack, Michael Ponnelli, Randy Furan, Toni Furan, Greg Cieslewicz, Laura Nauman, Jon Hefner, Ryan Cerlp, and Officer Harrison Zanders

2. Neighborhood Officer report 10 min

Chris Keys: ckey@cityofmadison.com

MPD continues to do foot patrol in the area. They made a significant arrest of a trouble making individual in James Madison Park.

Alder Heck recognizes the traffic accident death on East Washington last night. MPD says that late night is the busiest time in the central district. Alder Heck requests a little more activity or speed control in the area late at night.

3. Proposal for 720 E. Dayton St. 30 minutes

Jon Hepner: jon@twallenterprises.com

On behalf of TWall, Jon Hepner is seeking feedback on a parking lot proposal at 720 E. Dayton St. For comparison purposes, he is providing an 8 unit development design that could fit in the lot.

The gravel lot in question has been a gravel lot for 50 years. It was owned by the city, then by Reynolds, who used it as a gravel parking lot. It has been used for construction staging for the last few years. Construction staging is now off the site, T.Wall has purchased the property. They are proposing a surface parking lot or an 8 unit multi-family building. They are looking for feedback.

The parking lot would be used by T.Wall residents and guests for their property across the street. There would be about 22 parking stalls and a bioretention basin for stormwater management. There would be a FOB Access gate, security cameras, and vegetation.

The comp plan calls for medium density multi-family in this area. There would not be any underground parking available, or surface level parking for the apartment building.

T.Wall has not considered a smaller residential development that would fit within the zoning requirements and not require a conditional use permit (4 units). Both an 8 unit building and a parking lot would require a conditional use permit.

Patty, Bob, and Cameron all note that housing on this site would be preferable and in line with city and neighborhood plans.

Jonny notes that all the other developers in the area have indicated their parking lots are not being used because there is available on street parking, so perhaps there is a way to work with those buildings to limit the amount of parking being built in a residential area. Jon said that Veritas Village's lot was full and they had a waiting list.

Patty calls a straw poll of the council - no one is in favor of the parking lot approach. Unanimous approval for a housing project of some kind.

The council provides feedback that it would like to see something smaller than 8 units.

Bob Klebba makes a motion to have TLNA write a letter to T.Wall and the planning department encouraging the residential development of the lot and have it not used for parking.

Motion passes via voice vote.

One vote nay.

4. Request to consider a temporary ban on alcohol at Reynolds 20 min.

Possible request for permanent ban

Andrew Serri proposed to make Reynolds Park temporarily alcohol free for 90 days. He thinks a bigger feedback process should happen to get an ordinance change.

Sergeant Zanders - Looked at July 1 to August 7, 24 calls of service to Reynolds.

Zanders reads the list of calls and reports.

Zanders notes that alcohol has played a role in some of the problems in the park, but notes it is currently not illegal to drink alcohol in the park.

Zanders notes that people in James Madison tend to not sit around and get incapacitated all day because they know they can't drink there.

Zanders notes the behavior tends to be alcohol induced, so removing alcohol would help mitigate that behavior.

Andrew asks Patrick Heck directly if he thinks a 90 day alcohol free policy is in the best interest of the neighborhood. He wants to hear more from the council and residents first.

Neighbors chime in - once the 90 days went into effect last summer, it was much quieter and more peaceful.

They say it has been night and day this summer to last summer. This summer is much worse, and he has only called the police one time, but could have on a nearly daily basis.

Other neighbor agrees that this summer has been bad with behavior. It starts really early, people drink all day, and usually violence and obscenities start in the afternoon.

Andrew Serri makes a motion to support a temporary 90 day rule change to make Reynolds Park alcohol free. Martha seconds.

In favor - 6

Opposed - 4

Abstains - 3

Passes.

5. Traffic Safety

10 minutes

Jonny Hunter

Coordinate traffic safety with MNA? Update our traffic safety ideas?

Jonny, Patty and Patrick met with Traffic and Engineering to figure out how to implement our goals as a neighborhood.

Jonny notes that it might be helpful to coordinate our complaints as a neighborhood to target specific projects.

In the next year, Jonny wants to work on communications with T&E and update our 2016 plan.

6. Funds raised at Party in the Park 10 min Suggestions?

Made about \$3,500 in donations after accounting for costs. We split the donations previously between parks and schools. Maddie notes that the shelter at Tenney is supposed to be soundproofed because the acoustics are terrible. Cameron notes we could lower the annual fee for TLNA membership in half to be more inclusive.

7. Breese Stevens 10 min Possible use for September 1 from 12-4 & October 3 from 4-8?

Big Top has opened up Breese Stevens on two dates if the neighborhood wants to use the space.

8. Nominating Committee 5 min

Nominating committee has convened and is seeking feedback on council positions and by-law changes. They have another meeting planned.

9. Council Chair reports 10 min

Treasurer's report - we have about \$36,000 of funds and another \$5,000 in a CD.

10. Elected Official Reports 15 min

Salvation Army is submitting their application on August 14th. The earliest they would be at a UDC meeting would be early October. There was a steering committee meeting on July 1st and another has not yet been scheduled. We could have a special meeting on the second Thursday of October to discuss the Salvation Army Project.

RPG Development is ongoing with renovation of the houses at East Dayton and Blount.

North Ingersoll/Elizabeth Street will be happening in 2020. See Patrick's blog for details.

Tenney Park lost some trees due to the flooding and harsh winter.

Baldwin Street Grill got a grant to improve their facade.

A three way stop will go in soon on Baldwin Street.

11. President comments

5 min

Business association meeting on July 24

Lindsey Lee and Brandon - Cargo Coffee and Gebhardt Development - are getting together to form a business association group focused on East Washington. They are focused on Salvation Army, flooding, and the MGE fire. The next meeting is August 22, 8:30 AM.

Johnson St. reconstruction underway - get updates at

<https://www.cityofmadison.com/engineering/projects/johnson-st-east>

12. Adjourn

Motion by Bob K.

Park chair report

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Tenney Park breakwater: Gigi Holland, Ed Jepsen, Patty Prime, Bob Klebba and 2 Dane County Parks officials met at the lock at Tenney Park to discuss work that needs to be done on the breakwater there. There has been significant erosion under some of the concrete work. The landscaping on the breakwater has been difficult to maintain due to environmental factors and lack of soil in the breakwater. Interestingly, because the breakwater needs to “breathe” with the pressure of the water pushing against it, it’s difficult to implement a design that would allow for large plantings. Furthermore, the lighting and other features of the breakwater could be updated to encourage a more welcoming environment.

Dane County Parks has budgeted money to study the structure of the existing breakwater. That study should be done next year. After that, we will need to look at what we could do to improve the breakwater. Some coordination with the City may be required in order to provide better accessibility to the breakwater, due to the County’s small footprint in the area.

In the meantime, I’m interested to learn what your perceptions of the area are, how you use it, and what improvements could be made.

Cyanobacteria: Please be very careful when you are evaluating whether to swim in Lake Mendota or Lake Monona. If you have any doubts about the water, don’t go swimming.

Wild parsnip: Has anyone seen any stands of this dangerous weed in city parks? If so, let me know. The seed stalks are turning brown and dying back now, but it’s good to know where the plants are so that we can get them treated.

Parks enforcement: I have recently talked with police officers about patrolling JMP and Reynolds. These walk-throughs are still on their agenda. But if something else is going on, their resources are sent elsewhere. Please don’t hesitate to call 911 if you see something suspicious in any city park. Dispatchers are professional and will be able to address the issue appropriately.