

Minutes
Tenney-Lapham Neighborhood Association Council Meeting
May 25, 2011

Council Member present: Patrick McDonnell, Denise Breyne, Alan Crossley, Joe Lusson, Stephanie Schmid, David Wallner, Marina Dupler, Alyssa Ryanjoy, Michael O'Callaghan Ryanjoy, Thuy Nguyen, Lia Vellardita

Guests: Nick Eull, Bridget Maniaci, Peggy Furlan, Joanna Furlan, Daniel Furlan, Luke Furlan, Dave Furlan

1. Called to order at 7:04pm.
2. Marina will add a friendly amendment per Joe Lusson's corrections for April 2011 minutes. Joe Lusson moved to approve minutes with friendly amendment, Alan Crossley seconded. Minutes approved.
3. Neighborhood officer report.
Alder Maniaci asked him to look into perception of rise of home invasion. He asked crime analyst for statistics but office unable to get that done by this evening. He should have by the June meeting so to compare to other immediate neighborhoods to see if anything has changed.

Nick is assisting Maniaci with open house at Gates of Heaven Thursday May 26, 2011 7-9pm, for attendees.

Issue of note that has come up this time of year with city parks and homeless population, especially with James Madison and land around Lake Mendota. The police found people camping out, at the end of N. Paterson St., leaving bikes abandoned. They contacted bicycle recovery – the employee will tag the bike with notice to remove bike – so as to send a message to those camping out. There was a discussion of cleaning up parks, as well as good signage around parks. Police are cognizant of street parks and “traveler kids” who range from 16 and up, who live on the street and come in and out of town and do not care too much about the environment and city.

Officer Eull is part of team organizing traffic initiatives at crosswalks. People are testing out around the neighborhood. He asked the board if there are areas where the traffic team should focus on. Joe Lusson mentioned in front of his house on 627 Gorham St. Nick mentioned a speed board in use by the school crossing guards, but will be available after June 11 2011, and plan is to rotate speed board around and put at start of shift and bring back in at end, so it is out for 6-8 hours a day, at different times of the day at East Gorham and Jenifer St. The board also tabulates data that they can use to focus enforcement efforts. Other suggestions for its use were on Gorham St: 1142 Gorham, between traffic lights at Paterson and Franklin (acceleration zone). Nick said he is new to this, so he has to look into best placement of board on the street (must be visible in certain ways, for example). Speedway is police with laser guns, like an assembly line.

TLNA could reproduce police crime prevention materials that we could circulate in the newsletter. Nick mentioned a brochure we could use and that Joe (in charge of the newsletter) would be using parts of in the newsletter. Brochures about robbery prevention, use of lights around the house, car burglary prevention, as well as others. Marina said there is a brochure in the newsletter.

Nick distributed his professional contact cards and stated the best way to get a hold of him is to email him, as it is quicker than phone. He is on duty afternoon and nights.

4. Guests: Dave and Peggy Furlan and children, present to talk about plans for the Gorham St. B&B. Introduction of board for the guests.

The Furlans started the project in 2007 to purchase Leitch house at 752 E. Gorham St. In about a month, everything is coming together so they are now in a position to close on the house May 31st 2011. It was a B&B in 1990s, and the plan was to revert back to B&B. It is also zoned for that. Bigger projects are exterior work – porch starting to sag, for ex., that they will start work on immediately.

The house has 4 guest rooms, plus rooms for the family to live in and is 160 years old. The Furlans had many discussions with the City of Madison and made other connections as to how to get this back to a B&B. They both have a background in hotel, housekeeping and restaurants, so they do not take this project lightly. Peggy wants to make it a part of the neighborhood.

Projects include: replacing and repairing entrances into house (all) and front porch.

Working with Percy Brown in Planning at City of Madison (grant program provides matching funds), Landmarks is also supportive and they think it could be approved without a meeting since they're not adding anything just repairing.

Timeline is to be open by August 1st 2011. They want to be open for the busy season and football season. Patrick asked if they have owned a B&B before; they have not but Peggy lived at a B&B in Oak Park, IL, plus they have experience working at the Arbor House as well as experience in hotels.

Marina received call from Gigi Holland who had a question about parking and how it worked in the past as the previous B&B. They had 5 parking spaces (1 for each guest room + owners) in past, but there's a garage there now so it will be 2 in garage, 2 in driveway, and have an arrangement to lease the 5th space from the Yahara House across the street and in turn they'll offer employment to their clients. They are also required to have 2 bike parking places. City suggested possible parking reduction proposal but they are going to keep the 5 spots. They want a chicken coop as well.

The Furlans asked if the TLNA Council would communicate its support and excitement to Alder Maniaci. They will continue to keep in touch with the TLNA board if they get the grant and fixing the porch.

5. Reports of Committees.

Marina stated that Alder Maniaci contacted her about the Gates of Heaven open house May 26, 2011. Mike and Marina and possibly Thuy will be there. They will be tabling to answer questions, hand out TLNA brochures, and recruit new members.

Thuy had nothing to report.

Alan mentioned neighborhood party and that he's trying to recruit more bands such as Cork and Bottle String Band as well as a few others. David suggested high school jazz group. The garage sale is August 20th and is in the newsletter. Also promoting "plant a row" to recruit people who have fresh produce to give to him to pass on to his church's pantry (First United Methodist) as the church needs fresh produce. Thuy mentioned she helps with St. Paul's fresh produce drive so they might work together on this. He instructed people to drop stuff off either Saturday or Sunday on his porch to deliver Monday morning. He has talked with Denise Breyne about recruiting block captains, as well as communicating with Jim Roper about it. Block captain party will be pushed back from June to a later date. AVID Program at East (Trek and Mary Burke provided 2.5 million dollars to expand the program to other schools); Alan's role is as a mentor (which he'd like to recruit other board members for); target population are those "in the middle" – trying to get to college. Students get support from school, mentor is just to act as an adult friend and "cheerleader" – ie, check in with students, spend time together such as watching movies or attending sports events.

David tried to get another principal from O'Keefe to come in for discussion. She did not make it, so he will try to get her in for another TLNA meeting. Graduation coming up, East had its prom recently.

Michael had nominees for block captains, but not much else to report as far as membership.

Stephanie had nothing to report.

Denise, being new, had nothing to report.

Patrick explained that the park shelter fund drive is in third year and almost at the end and there have been a lot of donations now that building torn down. Parks department sent out email blast about it, which helped. Someone put in a last chance appeal in the Maple Bluff newsletter. May 30th is the last day. Tile possible from Cork and Bottle, TLNA tile as well (one of the larger tiles). Michelle Weber had fundraiser for tiles as well. Some foundations have donated, such as MG&E, Madison Community Foundation, as well as a possible large last minute donations. John Wall Family donated a quarter of a million as well. David asked if there was something the TLNA could do to honor and recognize Mary Lang Sollinger for all her work on this project. Bridget mentioned a City level resolution honor as a possibility. Marina suggested the board think about what some recognition the TLNA board could do for Mary for the next board meeting. The wall on inside of garage wall will have a metal glass sculpture as a recognition wall for the biggest donors, such as the foundations, and will include Mary's name. It will be named the John E. Wall Pavilion. The shelter should be completed by late November 2011.

Alyssa planning on going out this weekend with brochures for businesses on Johnson St. as well as working on recruiting block captains.

Lia had nothing to report.

Joe L reported that the Cairns (729 E. Gorham St.) got the back stairs approved at the Zoning Board of Appeals, and appreciated the TLNA Council's support. Jim Roper went to the zoning meeting and spoke in support as well. They still need final approval from the Plan Commission.

6. Reports of elected official.

Alder Maniaci is going to a conference in Washington D.C. will be gone through June 12th but will be available through email.

She had just come from a redistricting meeting; she addressed the concerns about joining with the Emerson East district and said that was never on the table. Our district has not grown in population in 10 years (large dorm on Langdon has sat empty for a while, which may be a reason). District 4 lost people, while District 2 will be gaining some and will pick up more of Mansion Hill area, as well as a tract that covers a part of State St. Wisconsin Ave will now be the dividing line. At the meeting they introduced the Ward plans – idea that Ward 37 will remain the same, Ward 38 is very small (around 1800 registered voters), Ward 39 is quite large (around 3000 registered voters), so 38 will pick up more and will go to Blair St so Blair to Wisconsin will vote at Gates of Heaven. They want to take Scott McDonnell's district and take some of Mansion Hill up to lake, which will mean a 5th ward will need to be created, so District 2 would have five wards. Limited to ward locations for voting, especially downtown. Bottom line: District 2 is not losing anything. She passed around the maps for the board to see.

Bridget mentioned the renters meeting at the Gates of Heaven Thursday night; Michael and Marina attending.

Bridget wants to start a neighborhood kickball league at James Madison Park as a community building action.

Bridget mentioned problems with specific landlords whose tenants have serious problems, such as condition issues (mice problems). She is not seeing any improvement in the properties but did see some success with houses off Pinckney St. Our district in the cycle of the systematic City building inspection right now – exterior and interior for rental, and just exterior for single family homes.

Met with Chris Petakowski – will take some money for Johnson St for traffic study. Much of street design will be done in-house by city engineering, but traffic study will be contracted out. It has not gone out for RFP yet and Bridget said she has mentioned citizens are interested in being part of this. Johnson St has been pushed out to 2014. She discussed her concern for businesses, mentioned pocket parking lots; Johnson will be totally reconstructed.

This area cannot underground utilities on residential city blocks, only commercial arterials. For Johnson St., they discussed “leap-frogging” the grounding of utilities (some blocks are commercial, many are residential). Bridget feels strongly that it should be done all together for future of streetscape. Patrick mentioned neighborhood plan for growing Johnson St. businesses so not much leap-frogging in the future (if more commercial goes in). Patrick stated we may have to be mindful about parceling out Johnson or Gorham without looking at how they integrate with rest of system. Bridget stated that Soglin said the City does not have comprehensive plan; suggested CNI (Capitol Neighborhoods Inc.) create it. Patrick and Bridget agree that outside contractors need to do it.

RFPs are out on the Gorham St. houses and are due back July 7th 2011. The hostel came through, now under larger organization. Middle house will need the most funding as it will need the most work (and got the least amount of interest).

Bridget mentioned the Furlan B&B. Her only concern is about the facade grant for porch (not the right funds for that kind of work, funds maxed out last year).

Don Miller RFPs coming back for ideas for property usage due on June 13th and reviewed through June 28th (plan on public meeting); Stonehouse is interested. Developers interested in housing, which is most likely to go through sooner. Marina suggested discussing more at the next meeting. There was a suggestion of re-forming development subcommittee for the Don Miller properties, slated for Spring 2012. Marina suggested contacting David Waugh about this. August 2nd final action taken; design stages start in September. Bridget needs to talk to Alder Rummel about a large public forum; and will look into public forum at least for our district.

35% operating budget cuts projected – engineering cutting 20% projects next year. State law requires no cuts to fire and police operating budgets. Bridget will be, in the near future, asking from this board what we need, what the vision for the parks in the Tenney-Lapham neighborhood is. The comptroller who has been there 30 years is retiring, so they are asking for a lot of public input, sketching details for public process.

8. Good and welfare.

Marina suggested we hold next meeting at Johnson Public House. David suggested any donations to new library are welcome.

9. Adjourned at 9:03 pm.

Lia Vellardita, minutes