

Minutes  
Tenney-Lapham Neighborhood Association Council Meeting  
July 27, 2011

Council Members present: Richard Linster, Patty Prime, Marina Dupler, Lia Vellardita, Jim Wright, Jim Roper, David Waugh

Guest: Karen Potnek, Nick Eull, Carol Weidel, Bridget Maniaci

1. Called to order at 7:08pm.

2. Patty moved to approve June minutes, Jim Wright seconded. Minutes approved.

3. Guest: Karen Potnek (Salvation Army shelter).

Would like to be a part of association when she can and would like to contribute to the newsletter. August 27<sup>th</sup> there will be a function in the parking lot with police officer for family shelter to have picnic and positive interaction with police; they are planning Oktoberfest, no date set yet, open to the public with German food and band.

Richard mentioned comments from neighbor about frustration of Salvation Army (S.A.) as neighbor; there are two new majors and a new commander. Karen reported that the S.A. tries to be a good neighbor and listen and respond to other neighbors' S.A. wants to work with community. Richard hadn't had a chance to check further with the individual complaining.

Marina mentioned neighborhood garage sale and if S.A. needs items, so S.A. should let neighbors know what they need so that if neighbors don't sell anything to donate to the S.A. Karen mentioned they need blankets, towels; she will let Richard know what they need. S.A.

Karen also gave her email address: karen.potnek [at] salvationarmy.com.

4. Neighborhood officer report.

Per Alder Maniaci's request, Nick discussed about report about perception and fear of crime in the neighborhood (and brought copies). Four specific types of crime: residential burglaries, non-residential burglaries, home invasions, auto theft. Report showed trends for each. Non residential showed increase in 2010 from a particular individual and his gang; person arrested. Home invasions on the decline and mostly are drug-related (users and dealers stealing from each other generally). Residential burglaries are also on the decline. Theft from auto also on the decline. They're not seeing an increase in reporting crime: bike theft, for example, or other crimes with little information – encourage people to report, including self-report. Marina said she wasn't familiar with the perception that crime was on the rise as Maniaci had thought; suggested Nick write about the trends in the report for the newsletter to assuage public perception.

154 N. Blair St. drug bust (community policing): acted on anonymous information that large quantities of drugs, including marijuana, in the apartment. Plain clothes police officer doing surveillance saw teenagers leave residence and the police pulled them over on traffic violation and drug dog alerted them to the presence of drugs in car; searched car of teens and found several pounds of drugs, with the assumption to sell. One gave

enough information for police to get search warrant; warrant execution yielded over 5.5 pounds of weed and other drugs and paraphernalia. The guy dealing was ringleader; to Nick's knowledge he is still in jail. Nick sent drug abatement to landlord (in Texas) about what was happening on his property to correct the problem, and if not, City of Madison can and will take action. Nick stressed that it's not always "bad" neighborhoods that have these problems; asked community to be proactive, take down car licenses, for example. Carol asked what happens after landlord gets abatement letter. Landlord gets time to correct problem, but if landlord takes no action, City can take legal action and possibly seize property if it gets that far. Letter is the first written warning. Jim Roper asked if there had been nuisance calls for the Blair St. property but Richard said there had not been. Nick suggested neighbors keep their eyes open and report any descriptions, license plate numbers and any other information so police can focus efforts. Jim Roper asked if there was a specific schedule for patrol at James Madison Park; Nick said it was random. The third thing Nick discussed was about traffic in the Johnson Gorham St. corridor. They got a hold of the radar speed board that measures speed and alerts drivers to speed. Police trying to put in problem spots more frequently, particularly around Lapham school before school session starts again. Police put out for 4-6 hour shifts in unobstructed areas. They're looking to plant speed enforcements in more areas. Patty mentioned the area on Gorham St. past Tenney Park as being problematic; Nick said it could be a good place to put sometimes. Police do have to be aware of the location they put so cars don't take them out. Jim Roper mentioned a small speed board on a car.

#### 5. President's comments.

Richard addressed 1228 Sherman Ave. Richard Entemann at last meeting. Richard had paperwork he assembled for this issue (Richard Linster's letters to Engineering, Mayor's office, letter from Entemanns to Mayor's office). First letter to Engineering worked well, but when Engineering arrived they thought they had done the right thing. Richard said pressure on them made them submit new offer to change it but Entemann's not satisfied and wanted further changes to concrete. Engineering poured concrete to level out sidewalk; sidewalk revised to better conditions than what it was but not as much as what Entemanns wanted. Bridget talked to Christy about staff performance that was lacking; situation documented. Complaint going to mayor.

Richard went on to next item: spending plan. Patty said David Wallner asked about contribution to new library (three installments of \$500, one this year, one the following next year, one the year after that). David suggested we make this the plan and take it to new council. Patty thanked Jim Wright for block party; the party collected \$800 that Patty added to budget plan and asked how to donate it to Lapham. David suggested sending message and check.

#### 6. Reports of officers

Jim Wright: mentioned block party donations (\$800). He suggested continuing to give money to Lapham. Some people at party asked what money is going for; mentioned that we could work on answer for that at future events. (Money not going into endowment; money went to principal to spend as she pleases.) David said principal explained what they are using it for; this answer could be published in newsletter and advertised at next year's block party. Richard asked what he would differently for party. Jim Wright

answered that it was hard to make it anything more than it is now, maybe more activities for children and have people responsible for setting up activities. Richard said he would push for more seating in shade and get more pop-ups, and visible TLNA presence (like a table). Jim Wright suggested next year the time between bands the president could speak. Bridget suggested more signs, with work group the night before working on signs, and also that at the next main meeting we could recruit volunteers. Bridget suggested getting more online presence for advertising the party (Facebook, Dane101, for example), especially using music as marketing tool.

Marina Dupler: nothing to report. On behalf of Alan, reminded people of garage sale, and to email him if anyone is participating.

Patty Prime: nothing to report.

David Waugh: email from UW-Madison landscape architecture needing projects for seniors; his idea is to have seniors design Reynolds Park (in case the Reynolds crane ever moves). David made motion that TLNA submit proposal for potential expansion of Reynolds Park as seniors' project. Bridget advocated more for planning around James Madison Park instead (boathouse, community gardens). Bridget asked if the goal would be to change the space for athletic events or if David is just trying to plan ahead.

Marina seconded motion. David said that part of project would be defining usage and TLNA would help students define usage; current uses would have to be a factor, then come up with a plan that we could either approve or not – more of an effort in creativity. Bridget asked if it would be a matter of just making a plan that might not be acted upon or something that would be more pressing and used. Her point is that there is a viable business with no plans of moving, so focus on something else.

David following neighborhood plan and that this would be a good project in line with plan and thinks it would be interesting to see what would come of it, and would make the area more desirable, and we could focus on 800 block of Don Miller instead. Bridget suggested we focus on something more pressing based on neighborhood plan's goals. Deadline for students is in September this year or wait till next year. Students could reject this project. Bridget said there would be a lot more meetings with this. Jim Roper suggested smaller parks that we could focus on and that the Reynolds Park sounds. Lia had experience with students doing this and stressed that that the stakes are not high with these projects – they are experience for students and the neighborhood can use a free resource and take or leave the plans. Richard thought it was a great idea, an opportunity for vision for parks. David said many neighbors support idea, and other suggestion would be Yahara Riverway. Bridget asked if this is just planning or is there a component for implementation. Lia said this is just for planning purposes. Motion passed.

Jim Roper: garage sale; saw mounted police in park for first time this summer last week. David suggested fundraiser to harvest stuff that movers throw out after 15<sup>th</sup> and sell at garage sale.

Lia Vellardita: nothing to report.

## 7. New Business.

Carol raised this issue at last year's meeting about being nominated for nominating committee; Richard had told her she was too late but she could try this year. Bylaws say 6 members; 3 appointed by council. She wants to serve on committee; she thinks elected officials not eligible for electing committee, Richard disagreed. Richard was told elected

public official. Carol corrected from bylaws and said it was elected officials from organization; Richard disagreed. Richard said if we adopted that then we wouldn't have enough council members for it. Richard mentioned the members he had recruited on committee. Carol said she urges us to follow bylaws. She doesn't want to serve on the council, she wants to serve on the nominating committee, to find new people on the council. She purported that the council has not followed the bylaws. David Waugh agreed with Carol; the Fall meeting is good time to announce the nominating committee needs more members. Carol advocated that nominating committee should have copy of membership list; council should be "vigorous." Patty said she was confused about section 4 in bylaws that Fall meeting gets nominating committee when that's the time of election; corrected that bylaws mean the Fall meeting is for election and recruiting for next year's nomination committee. Patty asked what we do what this year; Carol said we nominate 6 people. Richard said we already have 5 people, but some on the council. Richard said that. Patty doesn't see point of not having any council members on nominating committee. Marina posed the situation that nomination committee would add and remove people at will; she saw how Carol read the bylaws; she saw the balance with 3 people from council and 3 from public. Some people believed that committee should be balanced; Carol believed that the language was clear in bylaws.

Jim Roper thought the intent that 3 and 3 is division of power and to eliminate any council member is shortsighted and did not see this as a big issue; he suggested the other option is to change the bylaws (which would take place at Fall meeting).

David agreed with Jim Roper on balance of power, and did not see anything wrong with bylaws.

Richard said the problem has been that we don't want to tell people that they've served long enough on council, and how does the council fill vacancies when schedules don't work, and getting people to commit to council. Richard said there was a limited number of positions to go around.

Patty wanted to know what benefit there was to having no council members on committee. Carol replied that it would be following bylaws, that there would be fresh eyes and people, new perspectives. Patty disagreed with Carol's interpretation of bylaws. Patty thought input from general membership provided the benefits Carol suggested, and did not think it was a balanced committee.

Jim Roper asked what the procedure would be to change bylaws. Richard said it would have to be published in newsletter in advance of Fall meeting. Richard also suggested committee to discuss. But we would be up against a Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> deadline for newsletter if we are going to change bylaws this year.

Marina made point that timing this year created a compromise (no Spring meeting this year); asked if we could move forward with plan of the recruitment for this year's committee (have 3 council members and 3 general members). Richard asked Jim Roper if he would serve on committee. Bridget asked if Richard could send out email about this to recruit members. Jim Roper said he would if it was appropriate for him to serve (not sure if he was elected or not).

David mentioned that the bylaws suggested it would be a conflict of interest for council members to nominate themselves. Patty said her perception that getting people to commit to council more of the problem. David made point that there has not been enough information recruiting people to council and that we should try more outreach.

Patty asserted that there was more than one way to read the bylaws. David suggested tabling this issue for future. The nominating committee can study language of bylaws to clean up language to prevent future understandings. Richard suggested going with this year's plan for the committee. Richard thanked Carol for sharing her views on this issue.

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

Suggested donating to her ACT ride cause, which she is doing next week. James Madison Surplus houses are on website; meeting date is set up. Process for committee: meeting for public testimony, presentations and Q&A. There are 2 proposals for 640 Gorham St, 2 proposals for Collin House (one is a proposal for-profit rehab for people with eating and anxiety disorder treatment, plus the use of the other two houses). The third house did not get proposal directly, except as being tied into other proposal. Meeting is August 18<sup>th</sup>. Richard asked if the meeting was the place for the neighborhood to give opinion, which happens in advance of next council meeting. Bridget said there was time after meeting for neighborhood associations to make formal stances on proposals. She also said there were not many proposals. David asked if the houses were advertised on mls sites. Bridget said there was a lot of interest but not many proposals. Lia asked about the process what would happen if proposals not good enough or there are no proposals for houses. Bridget said it would up to committee – future proposals could go through other entities, perhaps make recommendation for the following year. Jim Roper asked about zoning changes, that some of the uses would require zoning changes and that they wouldn't have to notify neighbors; Bridget wants to make sure that neighborhood knows about zoning changes. Bridget asked council preference of notifying owners or owners and tenants (residents). Jim Roper said parcel would be the boundary of the park. Bridget said everyone of 200 foot boundary should get mailed, and she wants to mail other owners on cross street. Jim Roper also mentioned that real estate market slow all over, and was curious to know how these were advertised (noted there was no asking prices for them). Bridget said they had some baseline data from appraisals from a couple of the houses in the past 4 years, and that the committee wanted to be flexible in the proposals.

Bridget did not vote yes for the recommendations committee made on Don Miller properties. Bridget discussed a little of the proposals. Ale Asylum proposal has been rejected and the Ale Asylum project with Mautz property falling apart; they are probably going to move to Town of Madison. Committee has not made decision on ULI – giving them opportunity to make new plan (Bridget noted no others were given chance to come up with another plan). Bridget advocated for Stone House proposal; pushback was for the kind of housing that will compromise future housing. Bridget said Gebhart plan good in terms of parking, retails, residential features. Committee being challenged with parking from some of the proposals in that don't have capacity for commercial parking committee wants. Bridget stated she has problem if 800 block doesn't get developed at this time – that she doesn't want to see it sit for another several years. Doesn't want to push Gebhart to 700 block for various reasons. Bridget wants TLNA to be very vocal about what TLNA wants. Marina stated she didn't understand why we could keep a block open when there is a viable, popular business that wants to go in; Bridget said it was the time constraints (they need to be in the new building by July 1<sup>st</sup> 2012) and the council wants

height, and Ale Asylum would be only one story. Bridget said we should be vocal to the council. David suggested avoiding August meetings for public input, but Bridget said it wasn't possible. Jim Wright asked who/what we should contact and do in meantime and suggested reporters from WI State Journal. Bridget said first for TLNA to review RFPs and give feedback to Bridget. RFPs on city website. Bridget suggested contacting Mayor Soglin and to be concise and direct in feedback so Mayor's office understands. Bridget also suggested reaching out to key alders so as to bring attention to alders (especially new alders) the emotional history of sites and what neighborhood wants. Bridget will be working with Pat McDonnell on two-way street ideas (Johnson and Gorham St) in the Johnson St. reconstruction.

9. Adjourned at 9:15pm.

Respectfully submitted by Lia Vellardita, secretary.