

TLNA Council Meeting

June 11, 2020 at 7:00 PM on Zoom

Present: Jonny Hunter, Tyler Lark, Madeline Kasper, Nick Crowley, Meghan Conlin, Keith Wessel, Patty Prime, Marta Staple, Pat Kelly, Bob Klebba, Michael Donnelly, Evelyn Atkinson

Guests: Alder Patrick Heck, Adam Wood, Dan, Cherrie

Call to order: 7:01

Agenda

- **Welcome and Introductions**

- **Consent Agenda**

- **Approval of May meeting [minutes](https://docs.google.com/document/d/14Fbz1I2jqLJ0oXL1BrBUpRKmLZVbaX-0PRq_OUmtSsw/edit?ts=5ed14a20):**

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Patty moves to adopt the minutes.

Michael seconds.

Adopted in unanimous vote.

- **PITP Mural**

Marta: Not having PITP this year, which is a major fundraiser for TLNA. There is still a line item for the event in the annual budget; unsure about what to do. The planning crew convened to talk about a replace event. The fence allows us to use a mural with chalk paint each year. Several ideas circulated about how to have the mural still painted. The planning committee wants to reimburse a muralist for supplies and time with PITP funds. However, there have been set backs because artists are busy with murals elsewhere in the city.

Madeline makes a motion to allow PITP planning committee to expend PITP funds to pay a muralist to paint fence.

Bob seconds.

Motion passes in a voice vote.

- **TLNA's Response to Police Brutality the Black Lives Matter Protests** (Resolution 60764 and Statements and policy actions)

Jonny: Doesn't want the council to ignore the issue; wants to put out a statement from TLNA on the issue. Lapham/Marquette PTG put out a statement that was very good.

Jonny will send out a draft of the letter for us to vote on virtually. Asks Patrick to provide an update on proposals the city is considering right now.

Patrick says the biggest thing going on now is working on adopting the ad hoc committee recommendations related to MPD policies and procedures. Adopted by the council in January and has been moving through the process but now there is a push to put things into place sooner. Resolution and second alternate resolution that would involve a few alders to make sure the citizen oversight committee is enacted with all the proper policies and procedures. Been a lot of maneuvering related to that; Patrick is a sponsor. Some concern that three alders is not enough and that there should be more involvement from black leaders in the community. Couple other resolutions floating around about an independent monitor that would be a city employee who would be able to resolve complaints of police and would have some oversight. Patrick agreed to be part of a subcommittee that would look at the budget of the police department to see how it may be changed to meet demands. Says we can't cut the police department's budget without capacity building (mental health, social workers etc.)

Jonny asks where the oversight positions will be housed. Patrick says the mayor put out an initial resolution saying the position should be in the mayor's office, which people opposed, but it is unclear where it should go instead. Ad hoc committee consensus that it shouldn't be under the control of a mayor that it should be a truly independent monitor.

In general, Patrick trusts the ad hoc committee and generally supports what they are advocating for.

Adam notes that Minneapolis has done so much to reform police department and this still happened. Thinks tweaks can only change so much. Asks if anyone has looked into Camden, New Jersey. They dissolved their police and rehired with different expectations. We currently ask police officers to do way too much, so many things that aren't in their purview. While he supports incremental improvements, he wonders how we might be able to do something more. Thinks we should listen to the people who are impacted the most by policing. Wants the council to think about it and is curious what Patrick thinks about more fundamental change.

Patrick says he doesn't think the Madison City Council is in the same place as the Minneapolis city Council right now. There isn't a progressive majority on the city council right now and this is not something that would be particularly likely to happen. Patrick has looked at Camden New Jersey and how they have done a great job by totally reconstituting their police. Doesn't think there is the political will here in Madison. From public safety committee review he got the sense that some people from law enforcement are sort of in shock. Thinks this is going to have to come from people. Calls for change have to keep coming if the momentum is going to keep going.

Jonny thinks this is a good opportunity for the council to state its values. Wants to put out a message prioritizing our budget.

Regarding the TLNA statement, Patrick says he thinks getting bogged down in specific resolutions could be one way to go but thinks that expressing our values as a neighborhood might be better.

Pat thinks sending out a draft and getting feedback from members would be good.

Patty says Adam and Jami submitted some changes that the neighborhood could make and wondered if he wanted to speak to it. Adam wonders if there are ways we could make a coordinated response besides issuing a statement. Racial equity challenge: pick a book, podcast, or movie to commit to learning or understanding; make a yard sign that says something like "ask me why black lives matter,"; encourage people to donate to an organization. Working on something similar at Christ Presbyterian Church.

Michael thinks having a supportive statement as soon as possible would be good. Michael moves that the council direct the president to make a public statement in support of Black Lives Matter and some form of police reform and that the details be worked out over email.

Pat seconded.

Keith offered a friendly amendment to have the letter focus on investment in the community, such as through education. Patty agrees and thinks so much about what is being talked about is reinvestment.

Patrick thinks we should act as a catalyst for people to think more broadly about equity. Jonny has talked to Freedom Inc about having someone serve on the nomination committee this year. Opportunity to have the council reflect the neighborhood.

Motion passes. (8 votes in favor)

- **Exploration into making permanent the closure of through vehicular traffic on E Mifflin st.** (Input requested, no vote will be taken.)

Bob has received some emails in favor of making permanent the closure of Mifflin to through traffic, curious what the council thinks of the idea.

Patrick notes that he has mostly had positive feedback although it has been a very limited sample size. Personally he has always wanted Mifflin to be a real bike boulevard but thinks there will be a lot of opposition, especially among property owners.

Michael thinks it is a great idea and wonders if we have gotten any negative feedback. Jonny says no. Bob notes that we are really at first steps here so it is too early to tell. Bob wants to know if this is something we are interested in; if so, he will set up a neighborhood meeting.

Anthony likes the idea but wants to see how it would work with the full traffic level. Interested in continuing the current experiment a little longer before seeing if we want to keep it permanent.

Pat thinks it has been a really good resource for people to use. Wants to hear more about why Patrick thinks there will be a lot of opposition and wants to hear if Bob thinks the neighborhood meeting will be virtual.

Patrick says the city has no idea how long all this will last. Thinks most opposition will come from business owners. Likely permanent closure would involve diverters so people could still reach their homes.

Adam notes in the chat that Mifflin is not actually closed, it is more of a suggestion right now. Actual closure would be different operationally and might have a different reception. Thinks now would be a good opportunity to try some actual full closures at a few spots.

Jonny asks about the potential for a survey. Bob says he thinks getting the word out is complicated and it is hard to get people to attend these meetings. But he thinks now that the road is already closed he wonders if we might not have the opposition we had with the diverter on Blair St. Bob is getting the sense that people like the idea and thinks we should strike while the iron is hot.

Michael notes in the chat that the objection people would normally have had would have been based on something unknown, but now they'll have a much better idea of what it might look like.

Jonny asks whether TE would go for this right now or what capacity they have. Patrick doesn't think they are more burdened than usual but that this project would be expensive. \$30 million deficit expected by the end of the year and a significant deficit anticipated for the following year.

Nick asks what a permanent closure look like? Bob has two ideas. One idea would be to put up plastic pylons like what we had at Blair St and then the permanent closure would involve curbs. Nick likes the idea but wasn't sure visually what it would look like.

Bob getting the sense that the council is supportive is going to go back to his transportation committee to discuss this further and talk with TE.

Patrick notes that a survey would likely not reach the people living in high rises on Mifflin as well as business owners and he thinks we should try and reach those folks. Thinks he can help in this effort.

Jonny asks whether the buildings have a listserv of tenants that we might be able to use. Patrick thinks that might be a possibility.

- **Candidate questionnaires for Senate and Assembly races**

Jonny wants to put together a questionnaire for candidates. Open up to the listserv for question ideas and then put the responses out the listserv. Jonny is going to move forward with that. In the time of Covid we aren't going to have the same door to door

campaigning and he wants to make sure people will be able to participate in the democratic process.

- **Chair reports**

Pat (parks): Discussion about whether or not to continue treating ash trees in our neighborhood. James Madison cutting down invasive trees. Working with Operation Fresh Start to figure out what will happen at Tenney.

Patty (communications): Sent a list of all members who joined recently and are willing to volunteer. Wants the council to look at the spreadsheet and see about reaching out to volunteers. Since we've had 72 renewals and 11 new members.

Nick (treasurer): \$34,000 in the bank.

Bob (transportation): County coordinators want to have a meeting over Zoom about the mural. Will be moving forward with that.

- **Elected Official Reports**

Alder Patrick Heck

- Two dead ash trees in James Madison Park that had been treated but didn't make it.
 - Parks is one of the divisions that have taken a pretty hard hit. Haven't hired a lot of seasonal employees; a lot of facilities and bathrooms are closed. Certain facilities may just not be opened this summer. Project to add acoustic tiling in the Tenney shelter is moving forward. Will be installed this fall.
 - Business improvement district making plans with what to do with the State Street artwork. Some of it could possibly be loaned to TLNA. Patrick said he could connect with Marta on that.
 - Gorham project in July; Dayton street in August; Elizabeth St digging and utility replacement is all done and impact to residents should be greatly reduced; replacement of the underground transmission cable all the way down Johnson between the two mge explosion sites work will happen at night.
 - TE: going to put in pedestrian activated lights to get between James Madison Park and Hamilton/Butler and there will be new green bike boxes at the intersection.
 - At city council on June 16 a declaration of being a Vision 0 city will be introduced. The proposal is to change the speed limit on E Wash between Pinckney to Baldwin from 35 to 25 mph. Includes upgrading all the crosswalks to reduce speed. From Baldwin to Market it would be to 30 mph and there would be a retiming of the lights. Bollards will be placed on the island on Livingston. Patrick and Alder Rummel applied for and received some funding.
 - What does \$30 million budget deficit mean? A little less than 10% of the operating budget. Some things will need to change in order to deal with this.
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- Evelyn asked whether there is any talk about a new local stay at home order. Patrick says PHMDC will release their analysis of the last two weeks. Disagreement about

whether Forward Dane is using the best metrics. A group of alders, including Patrick, complained about Forward Dane's metrics and concerns about what might happen. Doesn't know if we will move to the next phase. Doubts we will go back to a "stay at home" order. Evelyn feels frustrated, concerned that people are having yard sales. Patrick says PHMDC is putting out the message that you should have a mask on. Putting out those statements but hard to get them in the forefront of the media. Michael notes that without guidance at the federal and state levels it is difficult for local government to put out a different message without losing some credibility.

Patty is going to send out Adam and Jami's letter so the neighborhood can see what to do about it.

- **Adjourn**

Pat moved to adjourn.
Michael seconded.

- **Attachments**