

TLNA Council Meeting

May 13, 2021 at 7:00 PM on Zoom

Present: Jonny Hunter, Meghan Conlin, Madeline Kasper, Michael Donnelly, Pat Kelly, Rose Staden, Julia Levine, Keith Wessel, Alej Perez, Marta Staple, Tyler Lark, Evelyn Atkinson

Guests: Sarah Rasmussen, Patrick Heck, Bob Klebba

Call to order: 7:04

Agenda

Welcome and Introductions

Consent Agenda Items

- Approval of April meeting [minutes](#).
- 204 N. Few ADU request.

Michael moves to approve the consent agenda.

Meghan seconds.

Motion passes unanimously.

Replacing Council Members

We are missing a transportation chair, a communication chair, and an area rep green. Joe Lussen is interested in being area rep green.

Alejandra works in communications at UW-Madison and is involved in the arts. Feels passionate about it and would like to join the council.

Michael moves to approve Alejandra as communications chair.

Marta seconds.

Motion passes unanimously.

Shared Streets and Twenty is Plenty

Last night the Transportation Commission met and took two items on:

- 20 is plenty: Passed. Selected two trial neighborhoods, one of which is TLNA (from Johnson to Washington between Baldwin and Blair). Speed limit will be changed from 25 mph to 20 mph. Other cities that have done this have seen their traffic volume go down.
- Mifflin and Sherman will be closed again this summer.

Pat Kelly asks what the process will be to find a new transportation chair. Jonny said he did reach out to Adam but he didn't have any ideas. Jonny has just been reaching out trying to find people. Pat asks what about getting the nominating committee together.

Marta says historically the nominating committee hasn't reconvened, instead Patty used to just reach out to people directly. Marta says she can post on the TLNA social media page.

Keith said we really need to find someone who can take over membership so Patty can pass that on. Jonny said part of the trouble has been that we haven't been meeting in person.

Marta says we could buy 100 slow down signs for about \$500 that we could then bring them to PITP and people could pay for them or take them for free.

Maddie makes a motion to purchase slow down signs.
Meghan seconds.

Tyler notes that someone in the neighborhood might want to design something for a sign. We could pose it to the neighborhood. Rose wonders if the 20 is plenty thing is going to be confusing since it won't apply to the whole neighborhood.

Motion passes unanimously.

Community Fridge Update

Julia says they have gotten an extension until August 15 but there are some stipulations, so they are hoping to move the fridge. Christ Presbyterian might be a willing partner in this, they have been really supportive.

Julia notes that some people are confused about whether the fridge is still operating or not. It would be good to put up a yard sign with directions once it gets moved.

Plans for the newsletter

Subcommittee met on the newsletter to discuss moving to a digital format and looking at what delivery options are. Jonny thinks the newsletter was the best value we had during the pandemic. The idea of moving to a digital newsletter would decrease the number of people who receive it.

Alejandra's nonprofit could be our printing partner on this.

Jonny thinks our next step is to look at our options about how we want to deliver it in the fall.

Zoning Updates

Jonny went through Patrick's email about this.

Patrick notes this is a complex issue but he doesn't think the zoning changes are going to solve everything. Next Tuesday there is going to be a motion to refer the issue to June 1. Jonny asks whether the amended version may move forward. Patrick gave additional updates and talked through issues.

Patrick says the changes are about the missing middle, they do not really address affordability. The idea is that this missing middle will inspire local developers to do some developments that are smaller scale. More housing is better than less housing. It has the potential to bend the curve of rent increasing. If we do nothing, he thinks housing will get more expensive but he doesn't think this is going to have a massive impact on affordability.

Evelyn gets that this would make our neighborhood more dense which is more environmental. Patrick says changes are modest with regards to allowing things by right. There are still dozens of things that will have to happen. Changes are relatively modest. We're not talking about high rises here. We're not going to make it easier to build high rises. In terms of other programs, there are 8-10 other programs that need to be boosted a ton even if the plan doesn't go through. More affordable housing, land bank that will require permanent affordable housing, need to promote programs to bolster homeownerships. Some people say we are putting the cart before the horse. That we need to put all these things in place before we move forward with the zoning. In Patrick's view, we need to do both. If we do nothing the situation is going to get worse. City council needs to do more with displacement with more affordable housing.

Alejandra asks what Patrick thinks affordability is. Patrick says WHEDA has information on affordability. WHEDA is currently not interested in funding things in Madison. City now has \$6 million in the fund - going to coops and other less-traditional things. Will send information to Alejandra on this.

Bob Klebba asks if anyone has questions about the document he sent out this week.

Meghan likes the proposal and attended the city meeting in Feb/March. Thinks that the assumption is that just because there won't be conditional use it means that there won't be meetings. There will still be opportunities for the neighborhood to participate. Lives directly across the street from a 12-unit apartment building and doesn't find it disruptive. She thinks that it is not a huge change from the status quo. Patrick is very knowledgeable and a steward of our neighborhood and she trusts him here.

Jonny says that we don't have to bring this up as a council. Has read a lot about this. Worries about us stepping in and doing a letter. Notes that the affirmative action commission has indicated that this is something that we should move forward with. While this doesn't do enough, if nothing happens, we're going to be turning into Austin relatively quickly.

Bob thinks we shouldn't write off the neighborhood association. TLNA should not give up its role as advocating. Doesn't like to hear the sentiment that we don't want to take this on as a council.

Pat makes a motion that the council write a letter in favor of the zoning changes as currently amended and in front of the council.

Meghan seconds.

Tyler asks where Brian Benford stands on this issue. Patrick anticipates that Brian will oppose these changes. Patrick notes things are different over there in the Marquette Neighborhood.

Michael notes that he would like to hear what Bob would like to say. Bob wants people to be better educated about this. Notes that he raised this issue back in February. The president said he would call an ad hoc committee and never did.

Jonny asks what the possibility of amendment is to the current plan. Patrick described some of the current amendments and their status.

Tyler says he is going to vote against the motion even though he supports the changes. Evelyn agrees that we shouldn't take a stand on this. Can see compelling arguments on both sides.

Motion to send a letter of support with the current amendments.

Jonny called the vote:

Ayes: 2

Nays: 8

Meghan makes a motion that the TLNA will remain neutral. Madeline seconds.

Evelyn says she thinks this is a diplomatic way to go.

Ayes:9

Nays: 1

Motion passes.

Chair Reports

Keith - No updates other than ADU

Marta (events)

- Not sure how to thread the needle of things going back to normal.
- PITP - Yard signs. Will city be supplying any 20 is plenty signs? Patrick says that they don't have their act together yet as far as signage goes. But he will ask and see.
- Art Walk is happening on June 27.
- Yard sale happening on August 7.

Pat (parks)

- 30+ people who volunteered on Earth Day. Ended up picking up bags and bags of garbage.
- Wants to extend the fruit garden at Reynolds Park.

Tyler (vice president)

- Ash trees - City says that if we don't keep treating they will start taking them down. Got the sense they were recommending we don't continue to fund the treatment.

Alejandra (communications)

- Meeting with Stefan to talk about the newsletter and transferring duties.

Elected Official Reports

Patrick Heck

- Appreciated the perspectives on the zoning changes.
- 20 is Plenty and Safe Streets program (already discussed).
- 12 N. Few Street project given initial approval but not final approval from the Urban Design Commission. Received criticism about the flow of the whole thing. Confusion about garage doors that aren't garage doors. Might need to make some aesthetic changes.
- Conditional Uses for Red Sushi and JPH restaurant are moving forward.
- Tenney Beach filtration system will likely go in next spring.

Adjourn

Michael makes a motion to adjourn.

Meghan seconds.