

TLNA Council Meeting

October 8, 2020 at 7:00 PM on Zoom

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

Guests: Brenda Levin, Sandra Ward, Patrick McDonald, Ellen Murdoch, Chad Vogel, Amy Kazda, Jan Schur, Anthony Brylski, Peter Beeson, Jami Wood, Angela Vitcenda, Jerry N., Nancy Marshall, Dennis Martin

Call to order: 7:03

Agenda

Welcome and Introductions

Approval of agenda

Marta made a motion to approve.
Michael seconded.
Motion passed in unanimous vote.

Approval of September meeting [minutes](#)

Marta made a motion to approve.
Patty seconded.
Motion passed in a unanimous vote.

Update on Black Books Matter project - Amy Kazda, Jami Wood, and Patty Prime

Amy extended gratitude to TLNA for supporting the project. It was very well received. At the August event they set up a table and the books flew off the table. A lot of good discussion about where we are as a neighborhood when it comes to race. Received a lot of feedback from people who attended as well as those who were unable to attend. There does seem to be a lot of interest in keeping the project going in some form. They came up with three potential concrete action steps:

1. Create a visual representation of what matters to TLNA. Sticker or sign that says something along the lines of "TLNA believes that Black Lives Matter and hate has no place here." Participants indicated that they wanted to know that this is a welcoming place. The signs could be a fundraiser for an organization such as Freedom Inc. or Urban Triage.
2. Equity officer on the council. Think that is the main action step we should take when it comes to bringing equity into our neighborhood.
3. A neighborhood on the west side has released a list of numbers that people could call instead of calling the police when an issue arises. Jami is going to put a list together for the newsletter, that could also go on the website.

Transfer of Ownership at Cork & Bottle - Chad Vogel

Chad is requesting a license transfer for Cork n Bottle and came to the meeting to ask for a letter of support. Chad is the current owner of Robin Room and he just recently bought Cork n Bottle. His Robin Room employees will be working at Cork n Bottle. Connie, Tina and Jim are glad to no longer be working there, although they have stopped in every day.

Jonny says he thinks it is exciting that Cork n Bottle, which has been such a huge community supporter over the years, is going to continue. Chad is glad to have a job for his employees.

Jonny asks what Chad's timeline is. Chad says the meeting is on the October 21st. For all main purposes the transfer has already happened.

Patty made a motion that TLNA write a letter of support for Chad.

Marta seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

Jonny thinks the council should come up with a plan to recognize the previous Cork N Bottle owners for all of their support over the years.

ADU at 429 N Paterson - 30 mins

(a follow up to discussion at the previous meeting)

Keith explained that the Levins plan to build an ADU behind their home at 429 N. Paterson. They are at the bottom of a very inclined hill so there are erosion issues and concerns about that. Keith has had an opportunity to meet with the neighbors and noted that there is significant opposition: concerns about water runoff; concerns about how it will impact older homes nearby; family with an open air view would have a building three feet off of their lotline. Brenda incorporated some changes because of meetings with the neighbors. Had a contentious follow up meeting last week.

Brenda showed a site plan with all of the items the city requested. Neighbor Ellen Murdoch asked for water runoff to be rerouted so they did that. Another concern they heard was that there was a fall risk. Going to put a fence up to prevent falling. Removed back window per a different neighbor's request.

Ellen Mudoch appreciates the changes they made. Concerned that this is two conditional use changes, an ADU and a footprint that will take up a lot of space in the site. Has asked over and over for a smaller footprint. What distresses her more than anything is that in order to do this on the property, they will be putting in a concrete wall and obliterating the natural landscape of the yard. Never occurred to her that anyone would take that approach.

Nancy Marshall seconds what Ellen notes, worried about impact on her house. By nature of our neighborhood we have very little privacy that our backyards take on greater meaning because we don't have privacy to the side of our houses.

Angela Vitcdenda has a tiny backyard. Worried that the ADU would detract from the value of her property. Also notes that they live in a migratory flyway and she feels very strongly about trying to preserve and promote the area for birds.

Dennis Martin generally supportive of the project but concerned about the ADU.

Brenda notes that they have made themselves available to the neighborhood. Not going to just leave the concrete, going to put in different plantings. Two stories are needed to prevent erosion. They've done as much as they possibly can to appease neighbors. Garage will be six inches shorter than the building in the adjacent yard.

Jonny said the criteria we should look at this project is through the neighborhood plan.

Pat asks what Keith thinks. Keith says in general we have supported ADUs and the city has encouraged it. However, there seems to be universal opposition from nearby neighbors and the project does have some unique environmental aspects. Thinks we should lay out in a letter that the neighbors are opposed, but that TLNA generally supports this kind of density in the neighborhood.

Keith makes a motion to write a letter explaining that neighbors oppose the project but the council generally supports this kind of density. Bob seconds.

Marta asks if the neighborhood plan stipulates how we must treat the neighbor input. Patrick says there is also the consideration for green space in the area and talked through some of these issues.

Patty doesn't think that the plan lays out what we must do with neighborhood feedback. Usually when we've looked at projects in the past is whether the design fits within the neighborhood and another criteria has been talking with neighbors and getting their feedback. The neighborhood plan was published in 2008 and that the neighborhood plan trumps the city plan. Since the plan was developed they have encouraged more ADUs and they have also rezoned to provide for more density. Thinks it could be helpful to write a letter that would say we looked at it and there are clear pros and cons here.

Bob said there are 16 conditions of approval for a conditional use permit. They will discuss these concerns at the city council level. Thinks Keith's motion is the way to go, to note we support ADUs but that there is opposition from the neighbors.

Pat asked if Keith would accept a friendly amendment to be sure to include in the letter that there are severe runoff issues in the Levins' backyard. Keith accepts the friendly amendment.

Jonny called the vote on Keith's motion.
Motion passes in a unanimous vote.

Grant Funds for Mural at 1444 E. Washington 'A Wish for Change'

Artist trying to raise money to paint a large mural at 1444 E. Wash. Patty asked whether there are budget issues with the mural. Nick asked how much money they want. The artist has

already received \$800 for the project, but thinks donation to the project could engage neighbors to donate more and makes the project viable.

Jonny thought we could set up a matching grant. They need to raise around \$1,100. So we could say we would match up to \$500

Patty said there will be an article in the newsletter about the mural. So she will get some recognition from TLNA.

Jonny said that doing specific actions that show our support for the Black community here is meaningful. Tyler agrees it would be meaningful to donate to this effort; TLNA already donated \$300 to the mural on the other side of the building.

Pat makes a motion that we make a matching fund donation up to \$500 to support this project. Seconded by Tyler. Motion passes in a unanimous vote.

Increasing Diversity on the Council and adding an Equity Officer to TLNA

Ann wanted to discuss the possibility of adding an equity officer to the TLNA council, something that was talked about during the Black Books Matter book discussion. Jonny asked what an equity officer is. Ann said such an officer would identify disparities in the neighborhood and send a message to the neighborhood that we think Black lives matter.

Jonny says he is glad that Ann brought this up. He has tried hard to recruit people of color to council by working with different organizations. These organizations question the effectiveness of the council and the things the council considers. Right now we spend a lot of time on issues that impact only certain people in the neighborhood. He thinks it would be great to have an equity officer but the amount of work it would take would be significant. Jonny received one email response to his recruitment email. We need to think about these meetings and what we talk about.

Ann asks if it would be possible to have the business chair be an equity officer. She also asks whether other neighborhoods do this.

Meghan agrees that if we want to get a more diverse board we'll need to assess the role of the board. Is wary to create the position and then try to have someone fill the position and all the tasks it would entail. .

Anthony is in a different organization, a Perfect Harmony Men's Chorus, and he notes that they are having the same issue.

Patty notes that Black Books Matter project was great but obviously was just an effort for the white people in the neighborhood. An example of a different activity might be a postcard writing campaign to politicians. She really wants to carry the overall idea forward and not let it die. Pat encourages Ann to check in with other neighborhood associations. Ann will do that.

Bob notes that neighborhood councils do different things to recruit representatives, thinks we could make some changes to also do that. Asked how the nomination committee process is going.

Jonny said they have met twice. There are three spots they are trying to fill. Looking at trying to change some of the positions: communication and business. May need to redraw the maps. Thinks it will be a slate of candidates who are all renters and that would be a significant change to the face of the board.

Chair reports

Meghan (development): Meeting on the 28th for a new building where Scooter Therapy building is. Some issues about the driveway.

Patty (communication): We have 209 paid up members. Might not be good news ordinarily, but it means we will only need 21 people to log in. There will be appeals for people to renew in the newsletter. Struggling with the website and our support is not strong there and she is looking at other alternatives.

Bob (transportation): E. Wash speed has been reduced. Gorham lane closure is switching over to the other side next week.

New Business

Cornermart wants to change license from Class A to Class B, which would allow it to sell hard liquor. Wants a letter of support.

Michael says places have been doing this so they can do tasting events. Oct. 18 is the next ALRC meeting.

Jonny is going to try and get more details and then hold a vote over email.

Elected Official Reports

Alder Patrick sent along the following update:

I am unable to attend tonight's meeting due to a special Common Council meeting that starts at 7pm, so a few items of interest are below. If you have questions have input, please contact me.

The Common Council meeting tonight will primarily be a discussion of elements of the report from the Task Force on Government Structure that relate to the structure of Common Council itself. As you've likely heard, the Task Force recommended that the number of alders be reduced from 20 to 10 and that Council members become full-time alders with 4-year terms (rather than 2-year terms), 12-year term limits, and salaries set at 80% of Dane County Median Income for a single parent with two children. The change to 10 alders and the change in terms would require approval by the voters in a citywide referendum, likely in the spring April 2021 election, should Council endorse that approach. I see both good and bad in these changes but remain undecided at

this time. I do tend to give weight to the long and dedicated work of all of our boards, committees, and commissions, including the TFOGS. On the other hand, I can't imagine having a district that is twice as large as District 2 and being able to keep up with the demands of the position. If districts were to expand, there would likely be additional city staff to help alders, which is just one of many complicating factors of the changes we will be discussing tonight.

The 00 block of N. Ingersoll was scheduled to reopen either today or tomorrow. Reportedly, there were some problems with improperly done work that slowed this project down, but the paving company was finally called in yesterday and the road repaired.

The Madison Youth Arts Center is still exploring options for bus unloading. Their main drop off/pick-up for students is going to be in the parking garage, as originally planned. I remain concerned about any bus traffic on E. Mifflin, so am anxious to hear about their plans. Traffic Engineering and I are also not keen on converting parking spaces to a bus drop-off zone on E. Mifflin and Bob Klebba has reiterated that for TLNA Council. MYAC indicates that they will have buses dropping off students in the a.m. and picking them up in the p.m. during the school year, but the volume and frequency is TBD.

A new redevelopment proposal is being explored by SEA Design for the current site of Scooter Therapy at 12 N. Few Street. I am hosting a virtual neighborhood meeting on Oct. 28, 7pm, to hear from the developer about their proposal (postcard notifications for that meeting are in the mail for nearby residents and I will publish the meeting link and info in my alder updates). After Oct. 28, TLNA is likely to form a steering committee to work with the developer and evaluate the proposal. The developer is proposing to retain the bulk of the Scooter Therapy building and demolish a smaller and shorter section on the N. Few Street side. The owner proposes to construct a new building addition in the current parking lot area. Eight one-bedroom apartments would fill the second floor. The first floor would contain 8 garages, one for each apartment, and would be designed to promote live-work arrangements for those tenants who might choose to have a small business that could operate directly below their residence. Alternatively, the first floor spaces could perhaps be leased to a small business separately. The layout and provisions for driveway access for the 8 garages is to-be-determined.

Some neighbors have expressed opposition to the implementation of the 2020 Vision Zero projects on E. Wash. Note that the VZ projects are not an attempt to address the noise, cruising, and bad driving on E. Wash – it has been in the works for a couple of years and is primarily meant to reduce deaths and serious injuries by reducing speeds and implementing traffic calming measures/designs. It is a data-driven international effort that I strongly support. The reduced speed limit, light re-timing, and enhanced crosswalks (the latter coming soon) will certainly not encourage bad driving. I also support additional measures to reduce the bad driving behavior on E. Wash and all neighborhood streets, although there is limited funding for such measures. Traffic enforcement can be problematic from an equity perspective and is always expensive for MPD to conduct when they do not have sufficient funds to pay overtime to extra patrol officers and when they are busy with more pressing matters in the evenings, particularly on weekends.

The Mayor's 2021 Executive Operating Budget was released Tuesday. You can find all budget details and schedule here:

<https://www.cityofmadison.com/finance/budget>

The Salvation Army's request for funding for the apartment building (mostly "affordable" units) to be built along E. Mifflin is going through the city approval process. Community Development has recommended that they receive about \$500k of the city's Affordable Housing Funds. Because the project was delayed from its original 2020 construction, they had to reapply for the city funds. If approved, as seems likely, and the project receives 2021 WHEDA Section 42 tax credits (announced in the spring), they will break ground later in 2021. The replacement shelter component of the redevelopment could proceed forward in 2021 too, but that schedule is not known at this time. From what I understand, the Salvation Army has not yet started raising the funds they need for the project to move forward.

From the Forthcoming TLNA newsletter:

Future of Sherman and East Mifflin Partial Closures TBD

City Traffic Engineering is continuing these partial street closures to assist community members in having safe, healthy spaces for walking and biking during the COVID-19 pandemic. I understand that some of these temporary closures may be ended or reduced this winter so that snow plowing efforts are not hindered by the barriers currently in place, but as of this writing, city staff did not have a firm plan.

Assuming that the current barriers will eventually be removed, the TLNA Traffic and Safety Committee, Traffic Engineering, and I have also been exploring a formal trial of placing semi permanent barriers at a few intersections along the E. Mifflin Bike Boulevard. The trial barriers would be functionally similar to the current temporary barriers, but more substantial so that they can't be moved or driven around on their right sides. The goal of the trial, which would likely last a few months, would be to assess impacts of the barriers and help to determine if permanent installation is warranted and supported. Traffic counts would be done before and after the barriers are installed, including on nearby streets to judge if vehicles are diverting to nearby streets. Such a trial and study may need to wait until the Madison Youth Arts Center and the new Arden mixed-use building are operating since they will have some impact on traffic volumes. A public engagement process will be conducted by Traffic Engineering so that neighbors can weigh in before, during, and after any trial. I'll be sure to keep you posted if and when this trial is proposed.

Adjourn

Patty moved to adjourn.

Pat seconded.