

TLNA Council Meeting

September 10, 2020 at 7:00 PM on Zoom

Present: Jonny Hunter, Pat Kelly, Patty Prime, Michael Donnelly, Bob Klebba, Ann Sullivan, Tyler Lark, Madeline Kasper, Marta Staple, Keith Wessel

Guests: Alder Patrick Heck, Nancy Marshall, Sandra Ward, Brenda Levin, Kurt, Dennis Martin, Angela Vitcenda, Sandra Ward, Pat McDonnal, Ellen Murdoch, Dolores Emspak

Call to order: 7:01

Agenda

Welcome and Introductions

Approval of agenda

Pat moves to approve the agenda.

Bob seconds.

Motion passes.

Bob suggests that we have people bring new business at the beginning of the meeting so that we could add new items last minute.

Patty says it can be hard to fit things in sometimes.

Michael says it is helpful to discuss at the beginning of the meeting everything that will take place so that guests are aware.

Approval of August meeting [minutes](#)

Patty made a motion to approve the minutes.

Bob seconded.

Motion passes.

429 N. Paterson-ADU

Brenda and Kurt (owners of 429 N. Paterson) spoke about their plans to build a garage/ADU. They currently have an erosion issue in the backyard. Requesting support for a 2-car garage and a one bedroom ADU. The exterior of the building will match the house. The other purpose of the garage is that it will serve as a retaining wall. Separate entrance for the apartment on the second floor.

There are garages on three of the four sides of the proposed structure. Won't be impacting views.

Questions:

Ellen Murdoch (adjacent neighbor): Not here tonight requesting the council to reject the plan but asking for more time to consider it. Has a lot of concerns and wants some expert advice.

Concerned about the erosion issue. Going 10 feet into the hill and over two stories up seems problematic. Concerned about the size and what is going to happen with the erosion now that the trees are gone. Going to be a lot of concrete that won't leave a lot of water management.

Nancy Marshall (neighbor): Reiterate Ellen's remarks that this isn't a veto, just a request for more information. Would like to see a plan with the driveway grading. Wants more time to assess the impact and more information about the size and scale of the project.

Jonny asks what the timeline is. Brenda hopes to line up contractors this spring. She says they've already had to address erosion and permeable space issues with the city. Jonny asks if they would be open to postponing the discussion until next month since it isn't necessary to address at this point.

Tyler made a motion that we refer the issue to the housing chair, who can coordinate a meeting among the applicants, neighbors, the alder and anyone else.

Bob seconded the motion.

Bob indicated he will be voting against the motion because seven people signed on tonight and he wants to hear what they have to say before ending the discussion.

Angela Vicente and Ed Norbert (neighbors) are looking for more information and clarification about how this will impact their lot. Unclear how the excavation can be done without impacting their yard. Not sure how the retaining wall will work. Also have some concerns about the size and scale of the building. Ed thinks it is extreme to put a building in to stop erosion.

Keith thinks that by having this discussion we are avoiding the motion. What he would say about the motion is that the Levins are willing to give some more time. Another reason the delay makes sense is that when we work on larger projects, they evolve into better projects when different parties can work together through these ideas. So he supports the motion.

Bob raises a point of order that we had public testimony then a motion was made to refer and then we started public testimony again.

Pat McDonnell lives a few doors down. He would like to support the idea that all parties have more time to discuss this. Worries about heavy rain and storm water.

Bob is uncomfortable mixing public testimony with discussion of a motion on the table.

Patrick says Brenda and Kurt contacted him months ago and were ready to apply. At TLNA close to when they want to go to plan commission. The bigger issue is that neighbors didn't get much notice on the project. Thinks it is a good idea to go ahead and postpone this. If TLNA wants to weigh in on this at their next monthly meeting, that would be October 8 and then they could go to the plan commission on October 19.

Marta wonders if the motion should be amended so that Keith would not need to be involved. Pat thinks it would be good to have Keith involved so that he can report back to the council.

Jonny called for a vote.

7 ayes, 1 no; motion passes.

Brenda asked what the next step would be. Keith needs contact information. Keith will send out an email on the neighborhood listerv.

Nominations Committee Update

Jonny: We are in the process of figuring out the council for next year. Julia Levine who has done a lot of work with the plant giveaway along with some other neighborhood. Andrew Horn who lives in the neighborhood and has worked on the development committee with Patrick. And also Francesca Hong. Going to be meeting this Sunday to discuss new members. Need to replace three members and still waiting on some other potential replacements to figure out.

Pat wondered if we could all share who wants to stay on the council.
Patty said that is typically not shared.

Council examined the bylaws regarding the nominating committee.
Since Nick is not at the meeting, Jonny will remove him. So it will be Jonny, Tyler, Madeline, Francesca Hong, Julia Levine, and Andrew Horn.

Marta made a motion to approve the committee.
Patty seconded.

Pat says that since our bylaws say we should send a message out to the general membership and then vote on the final committee via email. So she is going to vote against it.

Marta said that as someone who has tried to reach the general membership, there really isn't one way to reach all those individuals. There isn't a tool to fully capture the membership. Hesitate to make real a false reliance on the listserv when it doesn't have a real reach.

Bob thinks we have missed a very important step in creating the nominating committee since nobody was asked. Thinks it is important that we do the minimum and contact the membership.

Tyler makes the point that we could send an email out to general membership to get volunteers for the council and nominating committee.

Patty thinks it is important to move ahead with the nominating committee and the important thing is moving forward with the council.

Jonny called the vote.
3-3 vote with 3 abstentions; Jonny voted to make it a 4-3 vote.

Patty, Keith, Marta, and Jonny voted in favor.

Keith made a motion that, by no later than August 15, 2021, we broadcast nomination committee participation.
Michael seconded.
Motion passes.

Annual Meeting

Jonny thinks we will need to move the meeting to December, based on where we are at with the nomination committee and everything going on with the pandemic.

Patty says that whatever we decide we can put in the newsletter. Thinks it would be worthwhile to have some sort of substitute process. Ought to talk about how we are going to engage membership.

Marta says that in order to satisfy the bylaws we need to have the meeting in the "fall." Thinks we should plan for it to be virtual. Worried that we won't be able to reach people. Doesn't think that December 1 is off-based, just concerned that we won't get a quorum. Jonny thinks we will get enough people based on people we all know. Michael agrees that we all probably know enough people to reach a quorum.

Patty will count up paid up members and will send the tally.

Marta asked if we should even broadcast in the newsletter. Jonny proposes the first Thursday in December, December 10th.

Patrick suggests we might want to invite a special guest star like the mayor. 35-40 people showed up to the mansion hill neighborhood meeting. Michael will come up with a draft agenda.

Patty asked Marta to write something up about the basic idea and to put a time out there. Patrick asked if the deadline for entries will still be September 15. Patty said Patrick should let her know if he needs more time. Going to hold the meeting on December 3.

Chair reports

Membership/Communication: Getting things for the newsletter but always looking for more.

Bob:

- Construction on Gorham street.
- Construction on Dayton: more trees being removed.
- Tuesday held a meeting for neighbors to discuss E. Mifflin bike boulevard. Most of the attendees from 1000 block of E Dayton st. who were concerned about spillover traffic. Also focus on putting barriers on streets that go through the neighborhood. Initially proposing jersey barriers. Alder Heck is talking with TE about some different ideas. Jonny asks if jersey barriers are only replacing current barriers. TE will not allow us to obstruct more than 10 feet across a street. So we have to provide access for safety reasons. Madison Youth Arts Center wants to provide access to the building.
- A lot of us go from Tenney-Lapham to the Marquette neighborhood. The traffic light timing is very liberal for those crossing. That's because TE doesn't want pedestrians to need to press the buttons. Wondering if we want to make that permanent because it connects our two neighborhoods. Makes it easier to travel between neighborhoods and makes E. Wash less of an obstruction. Wants to review it in our transportation review committee. Marta adds that the light at Baldwin originally changed to longer to time when kids couldn't use the bike path when it flooded. Patrick said timing also changed

because of less traffic. Since the speed limit is going to change to 25 mph, they will need to re-time all of the lights. Tyler wonders if we should write a letter. Makes a motion that Bob write a letter and ask Marquette neighborhood to also write a letter. Bob seconds. Motion passes.

- Tyler spoke with the city about tree treatment. Waiting to hear back from the city on whether this something we really want to keep funding. Patrick said the appetite for continuing to treat ash trees is slowly weaning.
- Jonny said Julia Levine contacted the council and wanted the council to look at Resolution 145. Asking us to discuss at the meeting and decide whether to write a letter in support of the resolution. Pat would want more information before writing a letter; would not support it. Bob thinks there is a great need for a new jail. Patty is reluctant to have TLNA weigh in on this. Doesn't feel comfortable saying that we are representing the neighborhood without consulting with the neighborhood. Patrick thinks if we want to take action we should invite Heidi and have more of a discussion.

Elected Official Reports

Alder Heck

- Two budgets: Capital Budget (buildings) and Operating Budget (programs and people). Capital budget has been submitted. (Operating budget will be discussed in October). Tenney Park beach enclosure project is in the capital budget for 2021. Patrick anticipates that it will survive. Public Market funding survived; we'll see how that goes. Anticipates it will probably stay in as well. Lots of small capital budget items related to district 2, such as shoreline improvements at Tenney Park. Unfortunately, implementation of James Madison master plan is not in the budget for the next five years. Could start sneaking in sooner than five years but will need to see how the budget goes.
- Keisha Mabra painted billboard on west side of Art In on East Wash. Now has funding to extend artwork all along the side of Art In.
- On a subcommittee looking at the MPD budget. Going to have a public meeting to present summary of what they have learned. Trying to make it digestible for humans. Looking at what defunding to police would actually look like. Common Council controls the police budget. Michael asked if Common Council controls MPD budget on a line item level. Patrick said no. While you can dictate service categories, the chief of police decides the line items.

Adjourn

Pat made a motion to adjourn.

Bob seconded.

Motion passes.