

Present: Peter, keith, joey, patty, hilary, ryan, anne, lauren, mary, bob, monica, joe, chris

Not present: Pat, Sue, Davie, Michael

Guests: Katharine Penseck with Troy Compost, Officer Ethan with MPD, Ann O'Brien, Avtar Roopra, Caroline Alexander, Elliott with Wild Warner

Called to order at 7:05pm

1. **Welcome and introductions**
2. **Approve last month's minutes; Ryan motioned, ?? seconded. Passed unanimously.**
3. **MPD:**

Office: "Nothing much going on - y'all have anything?"

Joey: "There are like 8 cop cars down the street in front of MyArts - do you know what's going on?"

Officer: "No but I can look."

... five minutes later ...

"Apparently whatever is happening was done, so it must not have been that serious."

4. **Caroline Alexander, et al: Rights to drill-baby-drill in Lake Mendota [or: how I learned to stop worrying and understand the rules for permanent piers]**

Representatives: Ann O'Brien, Avtar Roopra, Caroline Alexander

Permanent docks are increasing on the lake. 16-feet deep; "installation shook the whole neighborhood for a week. It is very much permanent."

DNR said it's not against any statutes, but also don't need permits. Caroline: "Nobody with any environmental awareness has inspected this structure." We don't know what materials they're made with, how they're installed, etc.

"Key thing is that these are steel piers pounded in. It's the first of their kind, and so it's setting a precedent," said Caroline. "Someone with endless amounts of money - this is their summer home, they live in Austin."

They might be in compliance with width and length, "but everyone else takes them out in October, at the latest." But this one is pounded into the bedrock, which is public land, said Ann.

Avtar: "If this was a public park, it would never be allowed."

Monica asked if this was the first permanent one on the lake, or just in Tenney-Lapham?

Ann said there are some in Bishop's Bay that are permanent, but they don't obstruct views. "And this is a dense, historic, very well-used lake in our community."

Caroline pointed out that on Lake Geneva, some of these permanent pier owners put in circulators to keep ice from freezing, which is dangerous for foot traffic / dogs / etc.

Bob talked about the discussions around the permanent pier at Edgewater. The city, at the time, had no jurisdiction on the pier or the seawall; all they could comment on was proximity to the lake, and even that was subject to DNR regulations. "We could write a letter to the city, but the city has no enforcement between the shore and the lake."

Caroline: "The issue is this falls between the cracks."

Chris H. said unfortunately, this would take amending state law, and that's pretty unlikely. Joey H. said the best bet is to contact an attorney and see if there's a court case to be made for permanent vs. temporary. He said reaching out to our state reps is unlikely to effect change. He said there are also groups that have been successful passing no-wake ordinances for smaller lakes up north, so could talk to them to see what they recommend.

Avtar, Caroline and Ann think this is related to the flood of money coming into the neighborhood.

Mary: "In summer when it's all rolled down, it's a visual obscenity that you see from Tenney Park. It's heartbreaking."

Joe: "The fish will be ok, but the view? It sucks. And that's the best argument you have going for you - it's a public resource."

5. New role and expectations of Sponsorship Chair

Mary and Sue jointly taking on role. Mary said she did a lot of this kind of work with State Street businesses for years. "I believe in partnerships a lot." She already has ideas they could fundraise for, like lights along Johnson Street.

Talked about experience working with the city - "sometimes like dealing with people in a foreign country" - and said she and Sue are looking to present some ideas in March. "Put a magic wand in your hand, and picture what you would do for the greater good."

"We can do all sorts of things, from lights to music."

Joe: "For the sponsorship chair - that sounds like veering into events - but I thought it was about fundraising?"

Mary: "Oh yes, it is." She talked about partnering with the events committee to empower fundraising efforts.

Patty: "Historically, we make asks from Gebhardt or other developers; Festival has been a wonderful sponsor for us. (A role) where we basically offer them space on our flyers, in our newsletters. It's more of a fundraising function to me."

Mary: "Yes."

Chris said he loves the lights idea on Johnson Street.

Monica talked about sending out emails to potential sponsors for different events, and said she's happy to share her template. (McGrath, Willow, Stone House, and Gebhardt.)

Ryan: "Monica, do you want to be involved with (sponsorship)?"

Monica, immediately: "No."

(laughter ensued)

6. Treasurer: Davie F

Davie couldn't make it.

7. Membership: Patty P

Pass

8. Events: Lauren E

"I have a really really cool idea, and I need volunteers, so I expect everyone to volunteer." (laughter)

She wants as many geographical areas represented as possible. Has budget for box of freeze pops, box of wine, flyers, and yard sign. Goal is 20 volunteers, May through September, understanding that weather might necessitate canceling various events. Guy who does this in Chattanooga and gets 30 to 40 people each time.

Lauren: "I don't want it to be overwhelming; I want it to be easy and fun."

By having them all over, neighbors can pop in when convenient for them and help break the ice a little.

Mary: Same day / time each week?

Lauren said Chattanooga guy does Tuesdays from 7pm to 9pm, but events committee can determine when.

Confirmed spring events:

Sat 3/8 - Craft and Garden Supply Swap @ Cargo Coffee, 1-3:30pm

Sat 4/19 - Repair Cafe @ Cargo Coffee, 1-3:30pm - Thanks council members and neighbors who have volunteered their talents!

Sun 5/4 - Every So Often Linster Memorial Ride & Party @ Forward Club

Sun 5/18 - Tenney Lap the Lagoon @ Tenney Park Pavilion, 11am

Joey mentioned that repair shop needs to be careful, because especially if fixing electronics, could be issues. But Lauren said Repair Cafe is an international organization that provides waivers, so they should be covered.

9. Newsletter: Joey H

Newsletter is almost done! So will get a request for delivery soon. Sparse response to requests for notes thank Marsha, so Joey is going to write a generalized one thanking Marsha for her years of service.

10. Development: Bob K

Doesn't know of any developments going on in the neighborhood, but did want to let people know the potential impacts of the mayor's current push on housing reform and housing affordability. "One of the issues that comes along with that is zoning for greater density" -Tenney-Lapham got the missing middle and transportation overlay district designations. Something circulating in committee is a proposal to make demolition easier; in our neighborhood, we need to consider how much we do or don't care about the character of Tenney-Lapham as it relates to this.

A lot of Wall Street money funding developers in Madison, especially near campus. The preexisting rigorous procedure required to demolish existing structures is being watered down.

Patty: "What are you saying we might do?"

Bob: "I just want everybody here to be sensitized, more than anything, to what you appreciate about the architectural and community character of our neighborhood."

Patty: "Is Lidell still the chair?"

Bob: "No, she resigned. And the planning committee is meeting before our next meeting." He said there are some amendments being proposed, such as having city inspection be involved before demolition. Sometimes developers say "this building is beyond repair", but not always the case. Another proposal is to charge for demolition permits, because right now, they're free.

Joe: "The frustrating thing is that right now, the climate is such that everyone is pro-development." He said with the issue of permanent piers, "the city doesn't have any power, but with this issue, it seems like they don't care. "

He said he wrote to the mayor the other day, and she replied. She said something designated as having historical merit will be preserved. But that's a pretty narrow definition.

Joe: "Even if we lose this - as I suspect we will - we need to think about this for the future. ... I've been supportive of it on East Wash, but as it comes closer to Dayton, Mifflin, Gorham and Johnson, we start to lose those homes and families that support our schools and community."

Peter: "I'm curious because I have a foot in both worlds. When we moved to Madison, we chose to live in Lincoln School Community" because more human-centered than, say, the Galaxy. "I also care a lot about affordable housing. But Jane Jenkins had this great saying, 'New ideas need old buildings.' Because small businesses and nonprofits cannot afford what developers have to charge for new spaces. So we need a range of architecture and buildings. ... So I'm curious if there's a way to interweave those."

He talked about South Bend, Indiana coming up with beautiful designs to address housing and scale that would fit in well with our neighborhood.

"What I'm so surprised by - we'll walk down Sherman Av. on our way to Tenney Park - and there are these lovely, old houses, and then this one blue house just plopped down there." (Patty and Lauren apparently have the tea on that one.)

Peter: So how do we make sure new development fits in with existing development?

Lauren talked about narrow storefronts, like on East Johnson, vs. wide storefronts like Alpha Graphics.

Joey suggested sending out letters that we might want to copy to our alder, as the proposals will be going to City Council. Bob said he'd be happy to.

Katharine (guest) pointed out that signing up to talk over zoom has an even greater impact.

Chris: "I agree with you on everything you said - and I've only been on the council for a little while - but we've already had a few emails about houses that are super rundown" and worried that their house will start on fire.

Bob: "That's a really difficult thing to balance, because you get into housing discrimination ... it gets super complicated."

11. Traffic Calming: Peter B

No report (just getting back after being overseas).

12. Web/Newsletter Layout: Keith W

Joey covered everything.

13. Parks: Chris H

Discussion of Parks Department plans to allow reservations, alcohol permits, and amplified sound at Tenney Park Beach:

Chris: "If you couldn't tell from my emails, I am NOT in support of the reservation system for Tenney Park beach."

It's such a small shelter that he doesn't think it was designed well to be reserved. It only has four picnic tables. If there's a party there with music and alcohol, he doesn't think casual visitors would feel welcome.

Patty: "Alcohol used to be allowed, but that was changed because it became a problem."

Chris said it's one of the few family-friendly beaches left - no glass pieces, clean, no sound issues.

Patty: "When are they opening up the reservation system?"

Chris wasn't sure. He thinks the reasoning is that Warner and Esther beaches have similar size shelters that are reservable, but way more people swim at Tenney beach than those. He thinks we should talk with the city; "I really worry it will change the nature of the beach for the worse."

Joe: "I 100% agree with you. We should find out what the process is to influence the parks. Unlike the DNR and piers, I think we can influence the parks and talk to them. ... What was the thinking, when will it start, etc."

Mary: "I think we can use Tenney Park shelter as bargaining, because I think it's the most-reserved and biggest moneymaker in the parks system. ... So they really don't need to do Tenney Park beach, too."

Chris agrees.

Joey makes a motion that the council write a letter to the mayor and head of the parks department saying that the council is extremely concerned and didn't know about it, and we want someone to come to our next meeting to talk about it. We aren't taking a position yet, but it's a huge change to our neighborhood, and we want to know more about it.

Mary seconded. Unanimous consent.

Joe and Patty pointed out that they've come and talked to us about smaller issues at Tenney Park in the past.

Bob brought up issues of equity; it's designated as a community park, not a neighborhood park. He said James Madison is one of the few places that Black Madisonians feel comfortable hanging out by the lake. But Patty said she walks at Tenney beach many nights in summer, and there's always a diverse crowd.

Monica said she has concerns about the proximity of alcohol and loud music to the playground.

Peter said he's not opposed to it being reservable, and being able to reserve something for two hours "so the kids play in the sand and not my house is lovely." But alcohol and amplified sound are separate concerns from being reservable.

Chris will write a letter and send it to Ryan to send to mayor and parks department.

https://www.cityofmadison.com/business/pw/contracts/documents/8587_EXHIBIT%20A_TenneyParkBeachShelter_PLANS.pdf

14. Special Projects: Monica K

No special projects updates, but the Dylan hotel is open! "It's kind of a cool spot."

15. Area Reps: Joe L, Mary LS, Hilary S-K, Sue-B

No news.

16. Invited guests, *if present*: Marsha R, Heidi W, Davy M

Nothing.

But non-agenda guest Elliott talked briefly about floating island idea in Tenney lagoon to help clean up the water.

Bob: "Who's going to mow the grass?"

Elliott: "The ducks, if anything." (laughter)

Bob talked about seeing a floating island blow from Lake Mendota to Tenney Park. "It's a natural phenomenon."

Elliott said they'll be anchored and can capture nutrients, and likely stay over winter. He's hoping to present at the next meeting.

Other non-agenda guest, Katharine, said she supports the floating island idea, and has seen them bring back wildlife.

17. Pres/VP: Ryan, ~~Pat K.~~

Ryan: Partner with Trek for bike race use of Forward Club? We have it booked, but seems to make sense to join forces. Might not have as much space, but also might not have to spend any money?

Monica: "Sounds fiscally responsible!"

Folks talk about how it might change the candor of the event, which isn't necessarily a bad thing.

Monica said one consideration is potential timing issues with the races finishing on time.

Patty: If the weather is nice, maybe we could spread out onto the field.

Lauren: "I'm good with it if it's free."

Ryan: "We hadn't yet decided if we were going to spend \$200 on food, like a taco bar, or beverages - the (discounted) fee came with a bartender, and we could have drinks that people pay for, or we could have a keg."

All in, we were looking at \$1200 to \$1400. But Ryan had asked Trek to sponsor in some capacity. He also pointed out that we hadn't really determined what kind of event we wanted; meeting? Social get-together? Maybe we could follow them instead of doing it at

the same time. But then, also, some people might not want to stay that late on a Sunday night.

Joey: "I'm a little confused, because I don't think we really have an event. And I think this is a great opportunity to make it one. Like for our spring event, we're hosting Trek bikes in the community."

Patty explained that the events committee was talking about a celebration for the Linster Memorial Ride, and that Trek said we could use their track for it once they were done with it.

Mary pointed out that this is a great sponsorship opportunity.

Joe: "I feel like we do have an event, it's just not all in stone. ... I don't understand the Trek thing at all. Aren't there multiple races? Do they all stay till the bitter end for awards? As a community member, I don't really want to linger and watch people get awards in a small, crowded space."

Ryan: "Depending on what they expect their crowd size to be for that, maybe they can do their thing on the field. Or we can tell Breese, they have to get their beverages through our bar, which could be a lucrative fundraiser for us."

Bob: "Do we have to make a decision tonight?" Answer is no. He asked for a better defined timeline from the events committee.

Joey: "I could see a scenario, where these events don't go as planned - I'm highly skeptical that we could actually have the bike race that day. I wonder if it's realistic."

Patty: "They said they would end at a specific time, and they would keep it open for us for one hour after they were done. They were very definitive."

Lauren said if it's nice enough outside to have a bike race, it's nice enough outside to have the awards ceremony outside on the field. Nods and murmurs of assent.

Monica asked Ryan to confirm when they plan to take the fencing down.

Events committee will continue to workshop.

Since October, we've lost 3 area reps (including Mary, who's now in a new role). If anyone knows anyone, we're also looking for someone to take over social media.

Chris suggested for the next meeting, when Ryan calls out for topics to be discussed, please tell Ryan if you have ANYTHING specific so we can put it on the agenda.

Meeting adjourned at 8:46pm. Patty motioned, Joe seconded. Unanimous.