

TLNA Meeting Minutes

7pm, Nov. 11, 2025

Lyric Apartments

1010 E. Washington Ave.

Present: Joey Hoey, Ryan McCormick, Monica Kane, Patty Prime, Pat Kelly, Lauren Engelke, Keith Wessel, Hilary Stohs-Krause, Chris Hovel, Peter Beeson, Joe Lusso, Michael Donnelly, Sue Babcock, Mary Lang Sollinger, Autumn Custis, Kevin Davies, Jacob Handel, Allie Vidales, Rachel Yves

Not Present: Davie Froeschner

Guests: Davy Mayer, Heidi Wegleitner, Stephen Cobb, Elliott G and Catherine (Brainplate Grows), Dina Nina Martinez-Rutherford, Patrick Heck, Duane

Called to order at 7:01 p.m.

1. Welcome and introductions

2. Prez comments:

- A. Thank yous, acknowledgments, meeting rules of engagement
- B. Roll call, and introductions

3. Approval of previous month's minutes

Bob moved to approve, Patty seconded. Passed unanimously.

4. Madison Police Department, *if present*

Officer Sydney Davila from MPD sent an email, which Ryan will read some of during his agenda item.

5. Stephen Cobb, Conor Coloia: Breese Stevens events year in review; soliciting feedback from the neighborhood

Stephen Cobb asked for feedback on behalf of Breese Stevens Field, and said they are very interested in continuing to improve. From their end, he said things went relatively smoothly this summer.

Monica said she loved the partnership with Breese Stevens for the USA Cycling Collegiate Road National Championships in May. She said she thought it brought people out and engaging with each other, instead of just watching from their front porches.

Stephen: "We want to keep building the relationship and bond with the community." He said Breese turns 100 next year, and so there's a lot of shared history. They're thinking about how to celebrate that milestone and capture that history.

Pat: "I think TLNA turns 50 next year."

("Oohs" from crowd)

There was some additional talk of trying to plan something together to celebrate both anniversaries.

Pat brought up the kickball tournament – noting that the TLNA council are the 2-year reigning champs – and asked Stephen to help with coordinating that.

Bob mentioned that back in the day, they actually played baseball at Breese, and suggested incorporating a baseball game into the anniversary celebrations.

Sue suggested featuring the history of Breese Stevens Field in a future newsletter article.

Davy asked about any issues with the addition of cocktails for sale at Breese, and how many concerts they're looking to hold next year. Stephen said they've had no issues; only one stand sold cocktails this year after it was approved. He expects there might be more stands selling cocktails next year.

As for the number of concerts, Stephen said they're asking again for 12, which is the same as last year. In 2025, they booked 8 and ended up actually hosting 6, as 2 concerts were moved to Camp Randall..

Monica asked about the idea of a space outside the venue where drinks would be allowed. Stephen said it was approved, but they weren't able to finalize plans that

worked yet. The thought is to have a sort of pre-concert tailgate area near the bike racks.

Stephen said they don't know yet when the Parks Department will be voting on their request for 12 shows.

Monica pointed out that while the council did approve 12 shows last year, it wasn't without contention. Ryan recommended that Stephen and Breese host a meeting with the neighborhood in general, not just the council. Stephen acknowledged the idea, and said they had no plans to ask for more than 12 anytime in the near future.

Joe suggested getting a vote on the agenda for next month so that any neighbors who wanted to weigh in had the opportunity to do so.

Monica suggested Breese share more details about how the number 12 gives them flexibility with their schedule and for planning purposes, so that people feel more informed about where that number comes from.

Joey said he is in favor of 12, or even more than 12, and to put that on the record.

Joe thanked them for providing jobs for 14-year-olds.

6. New TLNA council member introductions!

There are five new area reps on the council! Each answered an icebreaker question: "What would you pick for your last meal?"

Jacob Handel: He moved to Madison and Tenney-Lapham in April. Works for a non-profit.

Allie Vidales: Also moved to Madison in April. Works for the Girl Scout Council. "It's been a blast getting to know Madison and getting involved."

Autumn Custis: Originally from Maryland, moved to Madison in August and also works at the Girl Scout Council.

Kevin Davies: Been in Madison since 2013. Moved to Tenney-Lapham in February. Works as a mental health counselor.

Rachel Yves: Moved to Madison in July. Works at the Rainbow Project.

Ryan pointed out that most of the new area reps joined after meeting folks at Popsicles on the Porch, prompting applause from the council directed at Lauren for organizing the event series.

7. Bob Klebba, Chris Hovel: \$200 funding request for screech owl nesting boxes

Bob said folks expressed concerns about the development at 1617 Sherman, and how it would necessitate removing trees close to the Yahara Parkway. One of those trees had a screech owl nesting in it, and was, in fact, torn down, and “so now we have a homeless screech owl.” (murmurs of sympathy from the group)

To build an owl house, Bob said they needed permission from the Parks Department, which Chris worked on securing. Bob and Chris were wondering if TLNA would provide funds to help build 3 nesting boxes in Tenney Park.

Pat pointed out that there are screech owls all over the neighborhood; why just Tenney Park?

Chris said Parks asked for a biannual report on the status of the boxes, which Chris would do. It sounds like they’ll be approved as long as we maintain the boxes. Chris said at least one should go near where the owl was nesting. A for the other two, he said we have options. Maybe Burr Jones park, “which we’ve kind of adopted.”

Bob said he can work with birders and Chris to identify locations - he suggested maybe Giddings park, as well.

Joey motioned to give \$200 to them for building three screech owl nesting boxes, Michael seconded. Passed unanimously.

8. Lauren Engelke: TLNA 50th anniversary celebration

Lauren said Fall Festival was amazing. "So many people showed up and helped, including our new members Autumn, Allie and Jacob."

She thanked them and fellow new member Rachel for joining the events committee and jumping in.

For TLNA's 50th anniversary, Lauren suggested tying in a theme to use for other events next year, too. She said it could be fun to piggyback on the mural Pat and Patty are working on, and focus on integrating Reynolds Park more into the neighborhood.

Rachel agreed. She offered to create a 50th anniversary logo that highlighted Reynolds Park.

The cheese raffle at Robin Room is in two weeks. "Chad (Vogel) said he's having it whether we want it or not!" (laughter) It will be held Nov. 23rd from 4pm to 6:30pm.

Patty said she still has holiday decorations and asked if Chad would want them for Robin Room. Everyone said we should still decorate the street lamps, even though we ended up canceling the holiday market due to underwhelming interest from neighborhood businesses.

The events committee will be meeting in January to do strategic planning for 2026.

Lauren: "If you have opinions about how the events are going to go, come to the January meeting."

Lauren said the cheese raffle should bring in around \$700. She said she'd love to know more from the finance committee about expectations for events re: how much money there is in the budget, how much fundraising events are expected to do, etc.

Monica said that's something the finance committee can explore and provide clarity on.

Rachel pointed out that events can be hard to raise funds, unless you have in-kind donations and sponsorships; Pat and Patty said that's normally what we do, so it ends up working out.

Pat and Mary told the council that Chad asked that the cheese raffle funds be earmarked for the Reynolds Park mural project.

Ryan talked about how to recognize businesses and organizations that support TLNA, and said he wants to make sure they feel appreciated. Lauren and Joe agreed.

9. Pat Kelly, Mary Lang Sollinger: Reynolds Park mural

The mural for the water utility building at Reynolds Park is currently being painted. Mary passed around an image of what the mural will look like.

The artist is Audifax (Audifaxart.com). She's from Chilton, Wisconsin, and now lives in Madison. The mural will be 41 feet wide and 10 feet high. She adjusted the mural design based on feedback from the community. There will be a ribbon-cutting ceremony Dec. 8th to celebrate the completion of the mural. Details to come.

Mayr and Pat thanked Bob and Ryan for helping prepare the mural surface for the artist to use.

She's using anti-graffiti guard on the mural to help protect the art; it also will be protected from the sun.

They secured a wide range of financial donors, most at the \$1,000 level. Being able to use TLNA's tax-deductible status helped with securing some donations. They also applied for a grant from MG&E and are waiting to hear back, and have five other potential donors in the works. "Everyone loves (the design)".

Pat and Mary solicited input from the city arts commission and other arts orgs to find someone who was responsible and understood the idea of art for the community. "She's working day and night on this."

Pat said that because of the “incredible detail” on the mural, and having to paint it on ladders, it’ll take about 8 weeks total to complete. “Please come to the unveiling and let her tell a little about what this painting means to her and the neighborhood. There’s a ton of neighborhood history in that painting.”

Chris asked if there was an opportunity to paint murals on the building itself. Pat said they were pretty clear you couldn’t paint directly on the building. What about aluminum panels?

Pat said the water utility folks have been fantastic to work with: “They were gung-ho from the beginning.”

Chris said some people have expressed unhappiness with that section of Reynolds Park, and that the mural will go a long way to help with that.

Mary: “It’s really complicated when you’re working with a city property, especially given the size of it. With private places, it’s much easier. Hopefully this will be a catalyst for more murals.”

Mary said she will share specific details for the ribbon-cutting when they have them.

They still need to raise about \$5,000. She said that Hallman-Lindsey, who’s in the neighborhood, gave them 2-for-1 paint, which greatly helped.

Pat: “We will need to establish a maintenance fund, and we may be coming to the council to ask to help kickstart that.”

Rachel asked if we want that to be something we included in donation / sponsor solicitation materials. Pat said it will depend on how much we end up needing.

10. Treasurer: ~~Davie Froeschner~~ absent

Monica said the finance subcommittee will be meeting soon to review 2025 and plan for 2026.

11. Membership: Patty Prime

TLNA has 140 current members. There are still a few council members who need to ensure their status is up-to-date (they have all been emailed). Patty and Keith are working to sync their databases. Monica designed an ad that will appear in the next newsletter. Thinking of ways to reach members who haven't paid in more than a year.

12. Events: Lauren Engelke

Nothing else to add.

13. Newsletter: Joey Hoey

The newsletter is set to be delivered the week of Thanksgiving. Joey said this issue will be a little different. Council members mentioned not seeing a call for content. Joey said he brings it up each meeting. He said people often send him ideas, but actually sending content would be more helpful.

Autumn and Rachel said as new members, knowing what date to have content in by would be helpful. Joey said it's easier to accept submissions on a rolling basis, versus trying to designate content for specific editions and have to chase people down.

Joey said it can be a frustrating experience to coordinate the newsletter. He said if you have something you want included, just send it to him when you have it. The dates are on the website for anyone looking for specific deadlines, but most content is evergreen.

Joey explained to new members that the newsletter goes out ~every 3 months and is delivered in paper format to neighbors and put online in PDF format. It's also shared on the listserv. Area reps help deliver the newsletter.

14. Development: Bob Klebba

Downtown Madison Inc. is working on an economic development plan for the downtown area, and there was some concern if that would include outlying neighborhoods. Bob met with DMI rep in October - he wanted to make sure they weren't defining how business should be done in Tenney-Lapham or Marquette.

DMI said that wouldn't be the case, but that our neighborhoods do contribute to the downtown economy, so they would like our input.

He also discussed the Urban Design Commission. Tenney-Lapham is in an urban design district, #8. It goes from First Street to Blair Street. Bob said a lot of people have been complaining about new developments looking cookie-cutter. Same articulation, same color, same windows. But that's actually by design, according to Madison General Ordinance as laid out in the East Washington Avenue Capitol Gateway Corridor Plan.

Davy sits on the Urban Design Commission, and he said like many things, the design district standards need to be updated.

Bob will follow-up with an email to the listserv with a link to a survey for public comment.

Bob also brought up concerns shared via the listserv about a big berm going up to the service drive by Lincoln School apartment building. They're currently discussing pros and cons of different plans with their contractor, so there aren't specific plans to review quite yet. He said at risk is a 120-year-old tree, and Bob said another concern is that there will be massive earthworks.

Joe clarified that this is part of James Madison Park. The driveway is crumbling on the northwestern corner of the apartments, so they want to rebuild the driveway. "They seem to have taken the cheapest, most drastic approach," he said. Joe added this is also the flattest, most natural part of James Madison Park, and they want to slope it, instead, with the earthworks project.

Davy explained that there's a decades-old easement agreement that says the city needs to maintain the retaining wall there, and they don't want to keep doing that. The city's argument is that any way that they replace that retaining wall, they're going to damage the trees, even just driving utility vehicles over the roots.

Davy: "I'm going to see if I can slow that down a little bit, just to explore all options."

Peter said that spot is one of his children's favorites; he said it's good for picnicking, soccer, sledding in winter, and it would be a shame to lose that area.

A guest at the meeting hearkened back to the design district articulation and asked if those guidelines considered environmental impacts at all. It sounds like they do not.

Monica pointed out that the lamps are back and functioning in James Madison Park! Everyone clapped. Bob said he's been working on that since 2021.

15. Traffic Calming: Peter Beeson

Peter shared a couple of traffic calming-related items. He said he was quite surprised to see detour signs from John Nolan construction pointing to Johnson Street and Gorham Street. He worked with Davy and Will Ochowicz (district 2 alder), and they worked with traffic engineering to get those signs taken down.

Peter said several times in the last few years, parked cars have been hit and pushed into James Madison Park; recently, this happened again, and a car was pushed into the stone retaining wall in front of a house. He said he was curious about Madison's "dark skies" initiative. There's a lot of data that shows having dimmer lights by sidewalks and darker street lights helps with traffic calming. (murmurs of appreciation from the crowd).

Hilary asked about keeping people from temporarily parking in the bike lane on Gorham Street and blocking it for bikers. People recommended calling the police non-emergency line, and also taking pictures of license plates to report them.

16. Web/Newsletter Layout: Keith Wessel

Keith asked new members to send him pictures so he can add them to the 2025-2026 council member directory on the website.

17. Parks: Chris Hovel

With the new beach house, rangers need a better way to enforce the noise ordinance, Chris said. He'd asked if park rangers carry a decibel meter, and they don't. Chris said it's a service that we're paying for, to enforce the noise ordinance, and that this was the biggest complaint so far. He's going to set up a neighborhood meeting with parks to discuss the beach house.

Beach clean-up at Tenney Park was a huge success. Chris said he wants to see about bringing it to James Madison Park, too, next summer. Bob said he has keys to storage space at James Madison that volunteers can use.

Chris said he also wants to bring back James Madison as a swimming beach. "Imagine: if you put out buoys, and clean the beach, and don't have rebar sticking out, that could be a nice place. It's a nice sandy bottom."

He said the volunteer effort to keep the beaches open is probably what's going to be needed here on out.

Davy said next year, he and Chris can coordinate on the buoy issue to make sure they're put out at a reasonable time. (It didn't happen until July this past summer.)

He mentioned that Reynolds Park still has some issues, but it's tricky given that the building is owned by the city. "It's just kind of this weird area that's not really a park, and when there's a serious issue, it's like, 'Who is going to deal with it?'"

Pat said she wished they could get the park to install artificial turf, just because people used to utilize the park all the time for soccer, ultimate frisbee, etc. But the grass got so damaged, they put up signs saying you can play there anymore, which have been up for 2 or 3 years. No one was sure if the signs were still needed, or had just been left behind.

Pat told Davy that something needs to be done, because the park is central to the neighborhood.

Chris said it's on his radar, as well. "And some of these issues are pretty serious. It needs to be addressed; it's not safe."

Peter: "Activating the park - by maybe adding a curved diagonal path for people walking to Festival - that could make a big difference. It's currently this empty, vacant block. There's nothing that invites people to meander through the park. There's not even a boundary for the playground that makes it comfortable for kids to play."

Peter said with even some small changes, it could be a vibrant space. Having reasons for different people to use it at different times of day would really help with that.

Mary said lights are another issue.

18. Special Projects: Monica Kane

Monica said she'd like to pursue events and finance for the new term vs. special projects, specifically. She asked if anyone was interested in taking on the special projects title, instead. She said she was leaning toward her title being more along the lines of sponsorship.

Ryan reiterated that folks are always welcome to create their own titles for areas of interest; as an example, "it's been a while since we've had a social media chair."

Monica also put out a call for anyone interested in joining the finance committee. They're looking to compile a 2025 reflection and 2026 forward-looking plan.

19. Area Reps: Joe Lusson, Michael Donnelly, Sue Babcock, Mary Lang Sollinger, Autumn Custis, Kevin Davies, Jacob Handel, Allie Vidales, Rachel Yves

Sue collected results of the survey she sent re: meeting locations for council sessions. The consensus was to use 1 or 2 locations total, versus meeting at a different spot each month. Based on ranked favorites, she suggested Turn Key or Forward Club for the council retreat, and Christ Presbyterian or MyArts for regular meetings. She'll reach out to some places and see who might be interested in hosting the council regularly.

The group talked about access and noise being key factors regarding choosing a location.

Joey said we originally started changing location each month to try and improve community engagement.

Hilary asked if he thought that worked, and he said it was unclear, but that he didn't think so. Ryan agreed.

Several folks said that having a regular location might make it easier for the neighborhood to join, because they won't have to look up where the meeting is being held each time.

Sue said she tries to get the locations up on the website as soon as they're booked.

20. Invited guests, *if present*: Davy Mayer, Heidi Wegleitner

Davy Mayer, alder

The city council passed the city budget in a record 4 hours. There was a last-minute proposal to defund the police monitor and pay for body cams support, instead. Davy said while the police monitor has had issues, they're hiring a new person and he hopes it will have more impact.

The Willy Street pilot results were published. As a result of the study, the city decided to keep the parking lane permanent on Willy Street and not bring back the rush hour lane. They also put back in some parking near intersections, per business requests. Other additional changes that can be found in the results publication. Davy thanked Peter for bringing the Johnson and Gorham detour signs to his attention.

He said he will be running for re-election next year; his term was only 1 year because of a resolution that passed to stagger elections, but he will be running next year for a normal 2-year term.

There was discussion about how to get alder emails sent automatically to the listserv; turns out it's not really possible because people wouldn't be able to unsubscribe from that list without unsubscribing from the listserv itself.

Heidi Wegleitner, Dane County supervisor

Heidi said she is also running for re-election. The county budget was signed yesterday. The Part 150 noise compatibility plan has been drafted. There's one more meeting on Nov. 18th at the airport conference room to discuss the draft. All materials are available on the airport's website and at Lakeview Library. They're taking comments through Nov. 24th.

It was a really hard budget; \$31 million structural deficit to make up, due to end of federal grant programs, skyrocketing healthcare costs, etc. Every department except sheriff's office, included a requested 4% budget cut; Heidi said she asked the sheriff at the meeting if he wanted to reconsider participating in that 4% cut, and he said he did not.

There has long been a high vacancy rate for deputy positions (~30 at this time last year), Heidi said, so she and Supervisor Yogesh Chawla proposed eliminating some of those vacant positions. "It was a lot of work and a lot of amendments to try and reverse proposals that took from human services."

The compromise they decided on was that for the next year, the sheriff has to maintain 20 vacant positions, and the money saved from payroll will be used to fund most of the human services contracts that were set to be eliminated. Instead of them having to do a 4% cut, they got it down to a 1% cut for the human services department.

"We also created a new overflow shelter funding stream, so people who can't get into the new county (men's homeless) shelter, hopefully they'll have a safe space to sleep in the coldest winter months of November and December 2026."

They also allocated funds to Tellurian's detox facility to try and keep its services going. Heidi said they're attempting to figure out a more sustainable solution.

"We're looking at a really challenging 2027 budget," especially with decreased federal and state funding, Heidi said. She said nonprofits are really hurting right now, and needs are increasing.

"It was a hard year, and it's going to be hard looking at the months ahead, but what was cool was to see how many people care about their neighborhood and their county," she said. "I think if we work together and be transparent and communicate well - and listen to all the people who are affected by our decisions - even if it's a tough budget, we all feel a little better about it because it's inclusive and everyone's voice is heard."

Mary asked about F-35s and money set aside for noise reduction; Heidi said we never received the federal funds.

Davy thanked Heidi and the board for getting funding for the men's shelter. The room applauded.

Elliot G.

Made a lot of progress and ready to start fundraising for floating islands in Tenney Lagoon. Looking to install them next summer. Will speak at the next TLNA meeting with more details.

Lauren asked if there's a benefit to floating islands vs. plants on the shoreline.

With floating islands, roots are suspended in the water, and creates habitat for microbes on the surface, as well. Directly pulling nitrogen and phosphorus from the water itself. Helps with clarity, algae prevention, and biodiversity. Plants on the banks also help, but pull nitrogen from the soil, not the water. The found a spot at the neck of the lagoon that will be a good location, and out of the way of skiing and skating in winter.

21. Pres/VP: Ryan McCormick/Pat Kelly

MPD added additional patrol along East Washington M-F between 8am to 4pm. "Hopefully we'll see the impact of that in the near future."

Ryan will be gone for the December meeting, so Pat will be in charge.

Autumn will plan the council retreat.

22. Action items recap

23. Adjournment

Micahel motioned, Pat seconded. It was passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:08pm.