

TLNA Meeting Minutes

7pm, March 12, 2026

Forward Club at Breese Stevens Field
917 E Mifflin St Gate 5

Present: Allie Vidales, Chris Hovel, Davie Froeschner, Hilary Stohs-Krause, Jacob Handel, Joe Lussion, Keith Wessel, Lauren Engelke, Mary Lang Sollinger, Patty Prime, Peter Beeson, Rachel Yves

Not Present: Autumn Custis, Bob Klebba, Joey Hoey, Keith Wessel, Kevin Davies, Michael Donnelly, Monica Kane, Pat Kelly, Ryan McCormick, Sue Babcock

Guests: Davy Mayer, Steven Downing, Isaia Ben-Ami, Gigi Melone, Maggie and Rachel (affiliated with Gigi's group), Heidi Wegleitner

Called to order at 7 p.m.

1. Welcome and introductions

2. Approval of previous month's minutes

Hilary will email last month's minutes out with tonight's minutes, and we can approve both at April's meeting.

3. Madison Police Department, *if present*

Absent.

4. Gigi Melone, neighborhood group organizing for social justice

At the last TLNA meeting in February, some folks asked about anti-ICE action happening in Madison. Gigi M. is part of a group trying to organize readiness if ICE comes to Madison, and particularly in Tenney-Lapham. Goals are to get to know each other and meet more neighbors, and also to lead training and education for responding to ICE. They meet every other Thursday at MyArts and every other Saturday at Christ Presbyterian Church (so once a week total). Both are at 7pm. They use a Signal group chat to communicate. They're also looking into doing mutual aid in the future. She wants to let people know that they're around and would love people to join.

They don't have a formal name as of this time.

Davie F. said he's very passionate about this topic. He said he keeps quick guides on his phone re: his rights in different situations, and suggested Gigi send links, factsheets or resources to the listserv for folks who are interested.

Peter B. said he saw "Know your rights" cards from Voces de la Frontera at a nearby Mexican restaurant, and it made everything feel more real.

Alder Mayer said he met with Mayor Satya Rhodes-Conway on Tuesday, and she brought this up specifically. He said there are a lot of things going on behind the scenes in the city, but a lot of it won't be publicized because they don't want people knowing their playbook to try and undermine it. They also don't want to be performative. And they don't want to entice ICE to come by flaunting preparedness. He said grassroots efforts are also vital, and encouraged people to donate to groups like Voces de la Frontera.

Gigi M. said she's glad the city is taking action. She said her group wants to build readiness, and even if ICE doesn't come to our neighborhood, then they've still built community around shared values and goals. "I encourage anyone who's interested to come to our next meeting and find out more about what we're about."

Their next meeting is Thursday, March 26th at 7pm at MyArts. Gigi M. said to tell the people at the lobby desk that you're there for the community organizing group.

Patty P. said this is happening in other cities, and there are also other groups in Madison that are forming. She asked if they have a specific association with Lapham Elementary at all, because one avenue that might be needed is help with transportation.

Rachel Y. asked if there's any coordination with local food banks for food delivery through their organization. "What kind of activities are you training the trainer to do?"

Gigi M. said coordinating with food banks is not something they have built yet. She mentioned ICE verification and ICE watch are current focuses, but

acknowledged there are many things they could focus on. She said Lapham has a sanctuary group that kicked off recently. "So there are multiple groups happening."

She said they're not trying to be the one primary thing, but instead be one of many groups co-existing.

Patty P. said she has joined Gigi's group and can be a connector if anyone is interested.

5. Isaia Ben-Ami, State Assembly candidate; requested time to introduce self and campaign

Isaia Ben-Ami is running for 76th Assembly district. "I know how important it is for neighborhood organizations to exist. ... I really appreciate the work that y'all do."

He said he's a lifelong Madisonian who grew up on the East side and went to East High School and O'Keefe Middle School. He worked as a legislative staffer in the Assembly and Senate. Currently, he's the policy director for the Assembly assistant minority leader.

"We are in, as we all know, very scary times," he said. "It is very sobering to see how much action needs to take place to protect us from what is essentially our own government."

He said his campaign is centered around freedom: freedom to access health care, go to a quality public school, afford a house in the neighborhood you live and work in. He said "dignified life" should be accessible to everyone. "You deserve a spot here and deserve to be represented in your government."

Patty P. explained that, as a nonpartisan group, the TLNA council works to avoid the appearance of being political, but that the council is looking to sponsor a forum of candidates for one or more races that impact the neighborhood.

Alder Mayer confirmed that the council can't endorse candidates or encourage donations to one candidate or another, but that having people speak should be fine.

Davie F. agreed, but said we also want to prevent the appearance of preferential treatment or favoritism of one candidate or another.

6. Status of stop sign at Mifflin/Brearily?

Alder Mayer said he would lend his support when / if we have a request formalized regarding the traffic issues at Mifflin Street and Brearily Street.

Chris H. asked about the temporary diverter that had been put in place on Mifflin; Patty P. and Hilary SK recall that it wasn't considered a priority for the city.

There was discussion among bicyclists on the council about whether an additional stop sign would be helpful or hurtful.

Peter B. said as a driver with children often in his car, more stop signs - especially on hills - is already challenging.

There was recollection that after the house in question at that intersection was initially hit by a car, the city did work to make the stop sign on Brearily more visible.

Rachel Y. said the dangerous traffic situation she's noticed is during drop-off at MyArts, because cars just straight up stop in the street.

Joe L. said he's experienced this personally as a MyArts parent. He said a lot of cars come from the west side, and it's an awkward place to utilize for dropoff. He said there's not a great solution, apart from more community education re: bus options, dropping off in safer places, using the nearby parking garage, etc.

Davie F. suggested asking the city to add some loading / unloading parking spots nearby.

Peter B. said MyArts has requested that solution for just this reason. "It's a really awkward turn to get into the parking ramp, and it doesn't always work, and you can't see your kid go inside." He said they talked to the city about 1.5 years ago, and they were not amenable to getting rid of those parking spots. But since there have been staffing changes, maybe the conversation can be revived. Peter B. said he can take that on.

Hilary SK suggested adding one of those small roundabout / island things in that intersection, but Patty P. said Madison Metro would probably object because it's a big bus route. But she said that could maybe work for Brearly and Mifflin.

7. Treasurer: Davie Froeschner

"Ultimately we're doing pretty well this year for newsletter advertisements," Davie F. said. Already close to \$5,000 of a \$6,000 budget goal, and there are a few others in the hopper.

He said we're generally looking good for 2026 so far.

8. Membership: Patty Prime

"I continue sending emails to people I haven't heard from in over 3 years. It's a very, very low response rate so far." No other updates.

9. Events: Lauren Engelke

Craft Supply Swap went great! Tons of people came and brought some awesome items. She called out Rachel Y. for the idea to reuse the signs from last year and update the dates with bumper stickers, saying it saved quite a bit of money.

Breese Stevens will be donating port-a-potties for the Nifty Fifty celebration, and Mango Man food truck will be at Nifty Fifty and the Fall Festival. The Nifty Fifty is scheduled for Sunday, June 7.

On the idea of revitalizing Reynolds Park, there's a group very interested in starting up a recurring Monday workout session at the park. They're all volunteer-run, Lauren E. said, "but hopefully they say yes!"

The next events committee meeting will be March 25th at 7pm at 1118 Curtis Court.

Joe L. asked about the signs preventing people from using the field at Reynolds Park, and Lauren E. said the parks department said the park is still reservable online, but that they want to change this because the turf can't handle it. Once it's

not reservable, then the parks department could remove the signs. She said this could happen relatively soon.

10. Newsletter: Joey Hoey

Absent

11. Development: Bob Klebba

Absent

12. Traffic Calming: Peter Beeson

He appreciated everyone approving the letter to the Transportation Commission from the last meeting, and is planning to send it Saturday. The letter addresses the speed with which commuters fly through several key intersections in our neighborhood. It also advocates for more urban design - little islands, flowers, trees - that improve walkability and sustainability.

Hilary SK talked about how respect for people at non-lighted crosswalks seems to be eroding, and how angry it makes her.

Peter B. said he'd love to get some people together to take on different pet projects related to traffic calming. He said he's passionate, but has very finite time. Hilary SK volunteered to be part of that.

13. Web/Newsletter Layout: Keith Wessel

Absent

14. Parks: Chris Hovel

One thing Chris H. has been thinking about is that summer is coming. He spent a lot of time and emails last year just to get ropes and buoys at Tenney Park - and it was "a lot of arguing with Parks" - and we shouldn't need to have a neighborhood association go to that length to get the work done.

He said he's going to reach out to other neighborhood associations with beaches, like Olbrich and Marquette, because lots of folks have been upset about this. He thinks the city's inaction is short-sighted.

"They advertise Madison and show all these pictures of the lakes, but then there's no lifeguards, and dead fish, and a bunch of weeds," he said.

He said it's not that expensive to have lifeguards, and he's hoping if he can bring together multiple groups that have a vested interest, maybe they can make headway. "The lakes are a special part of living here."

He asked anyone interested to reach out to him.

Rachel Y. asked if the algal blooms are a reason the parks department might be discouraging folks from swimming, but Chris H. said it's never been cited as a reason, and that the blooms have stayed consistent the last few years.

Joe L. agreed, saying algae isn't a reason to not have ropes and buoys, because it only happens a few days a year. "And they have a process for that: they put up a sign."

Alder Mayer asked if anyone attended the James Madison Park playground meeting. He said he wasn't able to go, and various council members said they weren't able to attend, either.

Joe L. said he attended the first meeting, and was pleased at the idea that they'd be replacing the black rubber with wood chips.

Alder Mayer talked about a fundraising strategy parks is using that splits up funds raised above a certain amount to ensure more equitable distribution.

15. Special Projects: Monica Kane

Absent

16. Area Reps: Joe Lusson, Mary Lang Sollinger, Jacob Handel, Allie Vidales, Rachel Yves

Mary LS said there are newsletters going into a lot of the apartment complexes now, which is great, but getting them to the Constellation has been hit-or-miss. There was some discussion of how to best approach that building.

Joe L. said he wanted to discuss something that Bob K. brought up re: 27 S. Baldwin Street. He said it sounds like they've changed city zoning to decrease the influence of the neighborhood on new developments. He wondered if there were alternate approaches rather than turning it into an apartment building.

Patty P. said this one is going to the Landmark Commission, which handles demolition, not the Urban Design Commission, so we probably don't have a lot of options for that property.

Joe L. said it would be good for us to know how to better influence situations like this in the future. Rachel Y. said she's also interested.

Peter B. said the design is really key, not just keeping houses. He mentioned the City Row apartments on Johnson Street, and said while architecture is subjective, he appreciates how well that development blends with the rest of the street / neighborhood. He said the city has resisted requiring pre-approved plans, but that could be something that we could advocate for.

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

Davy Mayer, alder

"As you know, we've been discussing the retaining wall in the back of Lincoln School apartments," he said, adding that it's crumbling and needs to be removed. At risk are some trees that are beloved by the neighborhood. The city is currently working to save the largest oak tree; construction is expected to start in the fall.

Another concern was the proposed earthworks that would completely remove a flat section of James Madison Park. The updated plan would add a slope and decrease the size of the existing flat section, but keep some of it.

The closure on North Shore Drive is expected to continue until late spring. Alder Mayer said he emailed someone in the city about removing the detour signs on Johnson and Gorham, but they're currently on vacation.

He also met with a representative from Festival Foods to talk about security concerns. He said they've been doing a lot of things because they want to stay here, but the high theft rate is an ongoing issue. Alder Mayer said he conveyed to them how valued the store was by the neighborhood. He said recent security improvements have had an impact, but it's a work-in-progress.

Davie F. said the downtown Festival might have the largest share of theft of any Festival store, but what about its share of revenue? Alder Mayer said he doesn't know.

Patty P. said she's glad they want to stay.

Alder Mayer acknowledged that we have a lot of unhoused resources in the area, which can also contribute. But at the same time, as shelter spacing increases, people have better access and also somewhere safe to be, which could help decrease the rate of theft.

Heidi Wegleitner, Dane County supervisor

They're in the process of updating County Board rules, because the new term starts in April, and that's when they take up any changes. Supervisor Wegleitner introduced a resolution to require that the County Board and County Committees host annual training on ethics, "because there seemed to be a lack of that in official procedure." Idea is to have a template module with training software that the county uses and provide a webinar, but with live county corporation council present in a public meeting. They can't require people to attend, but if the trainings are public, voters can see who chooses to attend or not attend. That resolution passed unanimously.

They're also working on adding clarity / structure to processes re: conflicts of interest for county supervisors.

She's also been working with other supervisors on affordable housing funding. She said there have been complaints raised about multiple developers, as well as some protests. She said it's vital that labor law is complied with, especially for county-funded projects. They're looking for ways to get more transparency and assurance that laws are being followed; "These concerns are important, and workers can be really vulnerable."

The supervisors also talked about response to any immigration enforcement activity.

Re: flock cameras, she said she gave credit to the sheriff's department for releasing data and transparency about their usage and results, but they are ending that program. Alder Mayer said the university is also pressuring their police department to end its use of flock cameras.

There was some talk about the F-52s and moving Highway 51 to lengthen the runways; Supervisor Wegleitner confirmed that the county will be involved, because it's county property. She said the timeline is very unclear.

Patty P.: "It's going to be pretty hard for us to influence that one."

18. Pres/VP: Ryan McCormick/Pat Kelly

Absent

19. Action items recap

1. Peter B. reopen conversation regarding loading and unloading zones for MyArts.
2. Chris H. reach out to other beach neighborhoods about working with the city.

20. Adjournment

Chris H. motioned, Jacob H. seconded. It was passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:23 pm.