

TLNA Meeting Minutes

7pm, April 9, 2026

My Arts

1055 E Mifflin Street

Present: Allie Vidales, Chris Hovel, Hilary Stohs-Krause, Jacob Handel, Joey Hoey, Keith Wessel, Kevin Davies, Pat Kelly, Patty Prime, Peter Beeson, Rachel Yves, Ryan McCormick, Sue Babcock, Lauren Engelke, Bob Klebba, Joe Lusson

Not Present: Autumn Custis, Davie Froeschner, Mary Lang Sollinger, Michael Donnelly, Monica Kane

Guests: Zoe Sullivan, Bill Kingsbury, Cheryl Balazs, Nick Balazs

Called to order at 7:03 p.m.

1. Approval of previous month's minutes and February's minutes

Ryan M. moved to approve, Joey H. seconded. Passed unanimously.

2. Madison Police Department, *if present*

Lt. Jennifer Hannah said there isn't much to report for the neighborhood, although activity tends to ramp up with the weather. She's looking to get additional funds for violence reduction, which sounds intense, but would be used for extra patrol in the area of Festival Foods, Reynolds Park, and the Beacon, which is a corridor where they see a lot of activity. She asked if anyone had any questions or concerns about the neighborhood.

Pat K. asked when the money would be available. Lt. Hannah said the government moves slowly, and they need to use the last of the funds from last year by June. She said she's hopeful they'll get another grant. It would be for the whole central district.

Today the traffic team did a test for Gorham and Johnson down to Bedford, and issued 27 citations. They said this shows there are issues, and they'll keep working on it. Lt. Hannah encouraged people to report things or email her directly, because any complaints for the neighborhood come to them and then they can act on them.

Joe L. asked if the updated measures re: Festival Foods issues have made a difference. Lt. Hannah said we'll know more as the weather warms up, but she's already seen improvements with the steps Festival Foods itself has taken re: security. "I'm very happy with that."

Neighbor Cheryl Balazs asked about crimes of opportunity, saying their unlocked car was rifled through. Lt. Hannah said they've seen a reduction with that, but again, cold weather is a deterrent. She said some of that is education, reminding folks to lock homes and vehicles, but even in safe neighborhoods, "do what you can to not make it an easy opportunity for folks." She encouraged Cheryl B. to still report the incident so they have a record for their data.

Lt. Hannah confirmed that she's not trying to victim blame, and that ultimately the responsibility is on the people who are committing the crimes.

Joey H. said he approached the police department (specifically Matt Johnson, who is in homeless resources) about an issue at his work, and they have been attentive and collaborative.

Lt. Hannah said the size of Madison's unhoused population and the resulting issues is of serious concern.

Peter B. echoed that Lt. Hannah has been very helpful.

3. Zoe Sullivan, State Assembly Candidate

Zoe S. said she grew up in a single-parent household in McFarland, and said a lot of the opportunities that her family benefited from, such as affordable college education and public sector unions, are no longer available. She said we need a "Progressive Era 2.0". Creating permanently affordable housing, creating a public bank, strengthening the healthcare system. She said that local financial institutions are responsible for 70% of construction funding, which means something in a city like Madison with so much development. She also mentioned wanting a state fund for climate resilience, such as improving water retention. Additionally, changing the way school funding formulas work.

Patty P. asked if the primary is in August, and if it's for Francesca Hong's seat (which is being vacated as she runs for governor); Zoe S. confirmed, and said there are currently four candidates.

Joey H. said he's working to schedule a debate with the four candidates.

Neighbor Bill K. mentioned issues with paychecks and bills not coming the same days, making it tricky to always meet obligations in a timely fashion. He asked if there were something the state could do re: legislating month-based payroll instead of weekly payroll. Zoe S. said she's not sure, and would have to look into it.

The council thanked Zoe S. for coming.

4. Proposal for TLNA to purchase new annual yard sale signs

Anne Katz had passed on a proposal asking for funds to help purchase signs for the annual Tenney-Lapham yard sale.

Joe L. motioned to give her \$250 for signs, and Joey H. seconded it.

Peter B. said it would be helpful to know how much money is actually needed.

Pat K. offered a friendly amendment to allocate *up to* \$250, in case it came in less. Joe L. accepted the friendly amendment.

Sue B. said she planned to vote no, because Anne K. wasn't here and didn't provide a specific amount or timeframe, and she thought it was wild to vote on such a loose request.

Ryan M. said he's invited Anne K. several times to attend a meeting to make her pitch, and she so far has not taken him up on that.

Joey H. said he knows her and she does a lot in the community.

Joe L. said several people who participate in the yard sale donate a portion of sales to TLNA. Pat K. said that's true, but she's not sure how much we actually make.

Peter B. said vinyl signs are a bit more expensive, so he offered a friendly amendment to raise it to \$500. Joe L. accepted the amendment. Ryan M. said he found in his email her original request, which said last time she bought signs they were around \$500.

Motion passed with one opposed.

Chris H. asked if we can have her put our logo / QR code on the signs, given that we're paying for them. Ryan M. said he would email her, and Rachel Y. said she could send him a design.

5. Treasurer: Davie Froeschner

Not present.

6. Membership: Patty Prime

Continuing to email past due members, and slowly, we keep getting more sign-ups. "It's a trickle, but it's working."

179 members currently; 6 or 7 signed up in the last 24 hours.

7. Events: Lauren Engelke

Events are unchanged since her last update, but she has a few wins re: activating Reynolds Park.

First, there will be a yoga class before the Reynolds Park edition of Popsicles on the Porch.

Second, Lauren E. met with someone from MSCR and asked them to consider Reynolds Park for programming, and they're going to bring an activity van to Nifty Fifty, the Repair Cafe, and are also doing two independent events on July 6 and August 7. They're also going to prioritize Reynolds Park as a back-up location for when other event spaces fall through.

Pat K. asked if Lauren E. had found out from the Parks Department if we needed permits to have food carts at the park, and Lauren E. said that's still on her list.

Patty P. said the bike to work day event we're organizing will be promoted by the Madison Bikes. She said she'll be there at 7am.

There was additional discussion re: food carts and Reynolds Park, especially during concert nights at Breese Stevens when people camp out at Reynolds to listen to the music. Pat K. confirmed that the Breese folks are in support of TLNA making that more of a thing. "The more, the merrier."

Pat K. said the annual kickball tournament will be July 19th; kids from 10am to 11am, adults from 11am to 1pm, at Breese Stevens Field. Neighbors can stay after to watch the World Cup final. "We want to keep that belt!"

8. Newsletter: Joey Hoey

Joey H. said he'll send out a request for articles, but the next edition is looking pretty good right now. He'll also be running a few more council member profiles.

Jacob H. asked if it would be helpful to run profiles of current council members, too, because new folks are always moving into the new neighborhood.

Ryan M. suggested adding profiles to the website, with a link in the newsletter.

9. Development: Bob Klebba: sale of four adjacent houses on 800 block of Dayton

There are 4 adjacent contiguous properties on the 800 block of E. Dayton Street up for sale, which Bob K. said is unusual, and could be an indicator of how sales like this might go in the future. What replaces those buildings depends on zoning, and if the developer wants to / is able to argue to have it changed.

He said these details get pretty wonky, but they can have great influence over how the neighborhood changes over the years.

Any development of more than 8 units used to require public review, including a neighborhood meeting. Bob K. said that doesn't happen anymore.

Patty P. asked if anyone had expressed interest in buying the units yet; Bob K. said they're owned by one person and being sold for \$2.3 million.

Joe L. said he thinks we need to adapt to a different approach, if zoning gives neighborhoods less teeth than in the past. Before, developers were motivated to come talk to the TLNA council, because the council could influence the process. "But if we don't now, then it's really weird. Those were painful meetings, but productive." He asked what our current leverage points are now? Zoning is probably one.

Bob K. said people can show up for the demolition permit reviews. He said the political climate lately is geared toward more development, no matter the cost. The vast majority of demolition permits are approved.

Pat K. pointed out that if zoning is changed and they want to put up a larger building, that would go through Planning Commission, and Bob K. agreed.

Ryan M. asked what we're afraid of as neighbors that could happen to these four properties.

Joe L. said if the buildings don't support family housing, then that can hurt Lapham Elementary. He said it's important to keep housing diversity in the neighborhood.

Patty P. said a lot of the new places that provide apartments have been heavily weighted toward studios and 1-bedroom apartments, which doesn't support the middle range. So if there's a good mix of living spaces, that would be great.

Hilary SK asked how many families live there right now, and Joe L. said he didn't know, but the houses *could* support families, even if they aren't housing families right now. On the other hand, if all the apartments are 1-bedroom units, that might never work for a family.

Bob K. said another concern is loss of naturally occurring affordable housing.

Sue B. asked about traffic, if they get the zoning changed and build a 60-unit meeting; Bob K. said parking engineering will respond that the streets are wide enough to support that.

Peter B. asked Ryan M. to ask Alder Mayer to report on development at next month's meeting.

10. Traffic Calming: Peter Beeson: update on “slow down” signs available from City

Peter B. said he saw cute “Slow down” signs in the Monroe neighborhood, and apparently it’s a free city program. He asked if he should get some for Tenney-Lapham.

Pat K. said she actually has an excess of “Slow down” signs in a different design, and people didn’t seem interested when she posted on the listserv.

Peter B. said it might be helpful to offer both and have a mix of sign designs, so that they stand out more to drivers.

Hilary SK half-jokingly asked if we could get some “Stop running red lights” signs. Peter B. said that’s also a problem, but the only way to really get people to slow down is to change the roads, like narrower streets and lots of trees.

Lauren E. asked if we could start a neighborhood campaign to grow tall things in the terrace, but apparently there’s a 24” height limit.

11. Web/Newsletter Layout: Keith Wessel

Nothing to present.

12. Parks: Chris Hovel

The city emailed and said they love the beach cleaning effort Chris H. led last summer, and that they want to expand it across the city. Chris H. said that’s great in some ways, but it’s also not sustainable for that to be a volunteer-led effort forever.

He said he’s also been on them about James Madison; there’s rebar sticking out of the beach, and it’s a liability. “It’s just a shame that it looks like that.”

He’s gotten a few emails regarding Reynolds Park, because the picnic benches really strike a nerve with neighbors (they were dropped off at the park a week or so ago). The problem is that they’re a natural meeting point for people drinking, and it can escalate into fights and police calls.

Pat K. said one thing she's noticed is that they've spread the picnic tables out a little more, perhaps in response to those issues. Chris H. agreed that we should be able to have picnic tables in the park, but he understands why immediate neighbors are upset. "It's a hard subject; it's a larger issue than picnic tables."

They'll be installing the screech owl nesting boxes soon.

Bob K. said he has a project for Chris H. that he'd love to collaborate on, which is looking at the capital improvement and operating budgets regarding parks and look at how much they're actually spending on our neighborhood parks. He said there's a lot of unspent money - up to \$450,000 - allocated for James Madison Park that has not been spent. He said the earthworks project is only budgeted for \$220,000.

Patty P. asked if the playground was part of the capital budget, and Bob K. said there wasn't any transparency around that, so it was unknown.

Chris H. agreed, saying people live here because of the lakes: "You should be able to swim at James Madison beach."

Bob K.: "We should let them know that we're paying attention."

Chris H. was asked about a beach barrier that was allocated several years ago, and he said that was off the table because they put the same one in at Warner Park but it wasn't maintained, and so "it created a cesspool." He said instead, he'd like to see a weed barrier added to Tenney like the one at B.B. Clarke beach.

There was also discussion about the elimination of lifeguards at city beaches, who often also did much of the beach cleanup work.

Pat K. said she was up on the water utility building at Reynolds Park a few weeks ago and took pictures of multiple bottles and used needles. "It's going to be a rough summer."

13. Special Projects: Monica Kane

Not present.

14. Area Reps: Joe Lusson, Sue Babcock, Kevin Davies, Jacob Handel, Allie Vidales, Rachel Yves: new merch update!

Rachel Y. collected data on merch sales and costs for getting 50th anniversary commemorative merch. There are additional fees for each new design. "I love shopping for merch, I love picking colors, but - pardon my French - I don't want to fuck it up by doing it alone!" She asked for someone to work together on finalizing an order. She said her initial findings suggested a budget of \$3,000.

Joe L. motioned to increase the budget for merch to \$3,000.

Pat K. said we still have quite a few T-shirts left, with fewer sweatshirts and only a few hats. "It seems like once people see a design, they want that design." She said she's not sure about getting multiple different designs for that reason.

Hilary SK suggested she, Rachel Y. and Pat K. get together. Rachel Y. will set up a time.

Lauren E. seconded the motion to spend up to \$3,000 on merch.

Sue B. said we have merch left; did we recoup costs for the last batch? Pat K. said she wasn't sure, but agreed that's something that would be good to track.

Sue B.: "I do think it's important, because we're spending our neighbors money on this stuff."

Rachel Y. said she can compare the last order with what's left re: colors and sizes to see about adjusting future orders.

Vote passed with no one opposed.

Jacob H. suggested a tie-dye station at Nifty Fifty for the light shirts with light writing. Everyone loved this idea.

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

Davy Mayer, alder

Not present.

Heidi Wegleitner, Dane County supervisor

Not present.

16. Pres/VP: Ryan McCormick/Pat Kelly

Nothing to report.

17. Action items recap

1. Ryan M. said he would email Anne Katz request to add our information to the signs, and Rachel Y. said she could send him a design.
2. Patty P. give Joey H. the PO Box key and number for while she's gone.
3. Joey H. reach out to Allie V. about using Signup Genius to coordinate newsletter delivery volunteers.
4. Keith W. and Joey H. add current member profiles to the website.
5. Lauren E. send list of approved vendors to Pat K. re: food carts.
6. Ryan M. to ask Alder Mayer to report on development at next month's meeting.
7. Rachel Y. message Pat K. and Hilary SK to set up a meeting to finalize merch.
8. Bob K. email out standards for demolition to council.

18. Adjournment

Pat K. motioned, Joey H. seconded. It was passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:46 pm.