

MINUTES FROM THE TPNA BOARD MEETING FOR JUNE 22, 2017

Board Members Present: Ray Brundige, Stephanie Callen, Manny Carralero, Janet Dakan, Stan Esterle, Mike Gramig, Denis Hommrich, Kristen Millwood, Chip Nold, Shawn Reilly, Jo Shipley, Doug Thrasher, Rebecca Watson, Andy Westbrook, Jeanette Westbrook

Board Members Absent: Ken Baker, Brian Caudill, Clark Cox, Jo Ann Mosier

Others Present: Officer Amy Matthis (LMPD), Martha Berner (Metro Parks), Beau Weston (Centre College)

Call to Order: President Kristen Millwood called the TPNA Board Meeting to order at 7:03pm.

LMPD Report: As Officer Matthis distributed the crime map for the Tyler Park Neighborhood Meeting dated 6/22/17, she was asked about the loud booms or shots in the area the previous evening and the drug bust in the Highlands. A couple of Board Members told about the various accounts on Next Door Tyler Park which explained the booms and other Board Members said what they thought they sounded like and where they came from. Office Matthis said she would follow-up on both the booms or shots and the drug bust and would email more information to us about them. In her email on Friday, June 23rd, she stated she looked up the runs and talked to dispatch about the loud booms or shots: one came in at 10:30pm from the 1300 block of Barret Avenue: officers were dispatched but nothing was found for the 2 booms; another call at 10:20pm from the 1400 block of Rufer Avenue on shots fired from the St. Louis Cemetery but nothing was found on this run. Included in the email was more about the drug bust in the Highlands - heroin was found in the walls of the home in the 1900 block of Payne Street. On 6/16/17 at 4:25pm, a robbery occurred when a victim who was walking back home from an ATM machine at Fifth Third Bank (1401 Bardstown Road) was held up at gun point by a black male in a white Grand Marquis who jumped out of the car taking his cash. LMPD officers thought the black male was probably watching the victim from the ATM itself. Officer Matthis commented there had been several thefts from PNC ATM machines in the Upper Highlands. 2 burglaries occurred with 1 entry from an unlocked window and 1 from an unlocked back door; 8 thefts from autos with 6 from unlocked vehicles; 2 vehicles taken and 1 criminal mischief to a tow truck attempting to tow a car at Mid-City Mall when the owner of the towed car tried to move it away causing damage to the tow truck. This area did pretty well when considering it to the rest of the Highlands. There was a sexual assault at the Highlands Tap Room Grill (1058 Bardstown Road). She reported Councilman Coan has budgeted money to pay for 4 hours overtime every Friday and Saturday night for officers to walk a beat on the Bardstown Road / Baxter Avenue Corridor to the rest of the year starting now. Her final statement was about the nice cool event on Wednesday – the celebration of the National Refugee Day in Tyler Park during the middle of the day that the many people who attended commented on how impressed they were with the park itself and how clean it was.

Treasurer's Report: Manny Carralero stated there was not much activity to be seen on the Tyler Park Neighborhood Association: Date of Report 6/22/2017. The Louisville Jazz Society donated \$500 to the TPNA Jazz Concert Series which according to Brian Caudill was probably adequately funded for this year. We received a \$50 check from Valu Market to The Tyler Park Fund which was a little higher than the last two months. There was \$88 from Valu Market plus \$50 from an individual deposited to The Tyler Park Fund. Deposits from membership dues and small donations were made to the TPNA Operating Account in the amount of \$904 including his own. Kristen moved to accept the Treasurer's Report with Doug Thrasher seconding the motion. The Board voted to accept the Treasurer's Report.

Approval of April and May Minutes: Janet Dakan reported the May Minutes did not get done. Janet reported Ray Brundige did not find any errors in the April Minutes. Stan Esterle moved to approve the April Minutes with Shawn Reilly seconding the motion. The Board approved the motion.

Homeowner / Neighborhood Association Discussion: Beau Weston stated he teaches sociology at Centre College and studies volunteerism. He is interested in why people volunteer for their community and thought that neighborhood associations would be an excellent place to find out why. He asked us in addition to why we volunteered for the association if we also had a vision at a personal level of what the neighborhood should be like and / or preserved. Stan related some about the history of the neighborhoods in the Highlands working together to help each other for the common good such as the various struggles of the Mid-City Mall to the effort to successfully saving Bloom Elementary School. Ray Brundige went into greater detail about how the neighbors on nearby streets, concerned about traffic, parking, late night noise, and other things such as the overall appearance, organized against the developer's plan to build 12 theaters at Mid-City back in the '90s. Ray stated through our neighborhood association and a small group of homeowners, Friends of Baxter Avenue (FOBA) which included our treasurer meeting with the developer, a settlement of only 8 theatres and improvements in the developer's plan was agreed upon. Stan stated he remembers being the only one on Goddard Avenue in favor of the theatres because he at that point was convinced the theatres would save Mid-City Mall which he thinks he was proven right. Stan said sometimes neighbors take unrealistic positions out of fears of what might happen. Chip Nold thought it was really important to be more informed when businesses come into the community. For example, when a couple of restaurants came in, we met with them not to say nay but to know what they were doing, make sure you were going to be good neighbors and a good businesses to have for the community. Chip thought the movie theatres had been a great amenity to our community because of their walkability. Rebecca Watson stated she enjoyed the fellowship the Board had created through Tyler Park events at which we met our neighbors, and even though we butt heads at the Board from time to time, we were like a family and were out for the good and creating a good environment for the neighborhood. One recalled the Board's successful effort to help the Rosewood Condominium Association residents to stop additional development at the site. Kristen agreed with Rebecca about the fellowship and to actually know the people in the park or on the street when taking a walk. To summarize, Kristen named our sub-committees and other events we were interested in. Jeanette Westbrook stated she had been on this Board for 25 years and for 15 years with the United Nations. She added that, as a social worker, she considered herself to be a social activist involved in politics. She considered the neighborhood association to be the most democratic grounds level quasi entity voice of the people directly going up the chain to our governmental officials. It was a huge voice and we tried to be respectful of our other neighbors that were at this table and tried to include their voices and wishes to be heard by not only us but also our governmental officials. Beau stated one of the things he is doing is comparing neighborhood associations with homeowner associations which are really quite different animals. He wrote to 46 neighborhood and homeowner associations in Louisville. Almost all of the homeowner associations' websites say to write in the first name and they say to preserve property values and the neighborhood associations do not say that. Ray shared with Beau our experience as we brokered a deal with the Kentucky Department of Highways and other parties when they removed 10 trees off the Tyler Park Bridge (because of the engineers' concerns about structural damage) replacing them in Tyler Park and planting trees elsewhere in the larger community that didn't have trees. As a neighborhood association, we try to have a positive effect. Chip noted that Doug had been involved with the concern about the structural integrity of the Bridge as the point person involved meeting with multiple-layers of government – it is the State (state road), the city,

and Metro Parks (city park), building off of what Jeanette was saying where we bring our voice into larger levels of governments. Martha Berner, Metro Parks Planning Department, stated they did the master plan for Tyler Park starting about 10 years ago. She said, speaking for Metro Parks as a public agency, they wanted to involve the community in the planning process. Martha felt it was really helpful for them when there was an established neighborhood association that they could go to say could you be our partner? Tyler Park really stepped forward in that process when we were doing the Master Plan. Over 130 to 150 participants turned out for meetings and a survey throughout an extensive process taking over a year.

TPNA Items Inventory Update: Janet Dakan stated we had sold all our mugs as Brian brought the last 2 mugs to a Board meeting last year and a gentleman paid for them. She stated we took a survey of the Board at that time and the members would like to have more. Kristen said the mugs were so expensive from Louisville Stoneware. Manny stated the only problem was we didn't make money off of them. Janet stated we could always consider raising the price. Kristen would look into it. She also asked about whether we had any Tyler Park Neighborhood Association t-shirts left. Kristen reported they were going to do an inventory of the t-shirts and she would report back but there were a few left but not many. She would look into the cost of ordering more and we could decide then. Rebecca suggested checking on one with a hoodie. Jeanette stated the older Tyler Park t-shirts all on cotton material were done at Oates Flag Company where we got the banners done and then we had some screen printed that did not hold up as well done at a company on Ellison Avenue. Rebecca has the stickers. Kristen will send out an inventory list for Board Members to sign and will forward it to Janet.

Repair Affair: Doug described Repair Affair to the Board as local non-profit helping elderly and poor homeowners by individual organizations, such as TPNA – we could have a team. On one Sunday or Saturday a year the teams go around and fixing up peoples' houses. It could be anything from house cleaning to cleaning up yards or cleaning out gutters to major work like building handicap ramp or repairing or replacing windows. It is free to us in that we do not have to pay anything. It is run by New Directions Housing Corporation qualify various homeowners who live in Louisville or Southern Indiana. He worked in West Louisville a couple of weeks ago. Usually each team has a captain and just has one house to do. Doug said we would go to one location and we probably need 6 people on our team. What we would do would depend upon what type of skills we have among our volunteers. The team captain gets to select the house – team's skill level to get the work done. He gave an example of his experiences including one that he thought they were taken advantage of by the homeowner. Doug would be glad to follow-up on this and keep it going. He needed to send back to the coordinator of the Repair Affair at New Directions we are interested in having a team but we do not know what type of work we want to do because we do not have a team yet. In January, he will write an article for the Newsletter and start organizing. Ray moved for Doug to go forward with starting a Tyler Park Repair Affair team with Shawn seconding the motion. The motion passed.

Project Updates: Ray Brundige said he and Katherine Moberly were going ahead with the trees and had made some progress. They had a list of available trees from Woody Warehouse Nursery in Indiana, had surveyed the trees we planted last year and found the trees were doing well. They had revised the grant letter because they mostly were having 2 prices for trees: it was a Woody Warehouse native tree the cost would be \$25; if they were on the approved list but not available at Woody, it would be another price because of the extra effort. Goddard Avenue would be our focus. He said he thought he asked about placing trees along Rubel Avenue at one of our Board Meetings previously by St. Louis Cemetery because it is a heat island but outside our boundaries. He was questioned if he meant Rufer

Avenue instead of Rubel Avenue and if so, if it was a no-man's land or was claimed by The Original Highlands. It was agreed upon that Rufer Avenue was the correct street name and, as Manny put it, streets in Tyler Park should be given top priority outside of Goddard Avenue such as west-side of Beechwood Avenue and then focus on other areas. Clark Cox had been working on interesting projects outside Tyler Park but had made some progress on the virtual reality tour but could not be here because he was at his grandson's place. We had not done anything on The Winter Festival of Hope and he had hoped Ken Baker would be here at which Kristen said he was on vacation. We were having a plan for lighting a tree of hope in an ecumenical gathering around it and there were people who wanted to have it expanded into a festival as well – food trucks, holiday lights around Tyler Park. Ray went over what we did last year. Kristen offered to contact Gothic Singers, who had come to Mid-City Mall, and ask them to sing non-denominational songs and non-Christmas songs. Ray stated the reason we were talking about this at this point was somethings like getting approval for putting lights on the bridge need very long lead time especially, as Stephanie Callen said, we would have to tap into that electrical box which will require a lot of discussion and permission for a short not difficult job which would not damage the Bridge but she understood the significance of the Bridge. Martha raised the question Metro Parks' involvement in process. The question of whether to do battery powered lights on the rail or have a professional electrician come in was up for discussion. Ken was to investigate the process for getting governmental approvals. Kristen asked about the condition of the poor tree and whether we had to pick another tree. Martha stated she was going to get to get an extension report on it. Jeanette complained about the tree being defective, crooked and having two trunks on it. She felt the tree needed to be replaced. More discussion proceeded about the tree.

Proposed Changes to the Tyler Park Master Plan: Shawn stated he presented a cost saving strategy for the Tyler Park Master Plan at the Park Committee's meeting on Monday night that would save \$750,000 off the total cost. He related how he was new to the neighborhood, had only been on the Board for a year or so and chose the Parks Committee immediately to help with the Master Plan & to get the process accelerated. He said he grew concerned overtime about the amount of money that was going into the Park and began looking into cost savings measures. His proposal kept all the tennis courts in their existing location and instead of moving the kid's playground and spray ground to the tennis court location, it moved the Tot Lot to the other side of the park for a small fraction of the cost at \$25,000 accomplishing the same goal of making it possible for parents to watch multiple kids instead of spending over \$500,000 to move the playgrounds and spray ground to the location of the historic tennis courts and to demolish them as in the Master Plan. He would send out a copy of his proposal to everybody after this meeting. Shawn said he became even more concerned about the direction of the Tyler Park Master Plan after hearing from an historian who had done extensive research on the history of Tyler Park at the Park Committee meeting. She reported on how long the tennis courts had been there, the historical significance of the tennis courts and the fact the smaller tennis courts were in all the original Olmsted plans. He thought it was vitally important we preserve our existing infrastructure of the park and the historical characteristic of the park so he will be talking to people about his alternative plan and working with people interested in saving the historic tennis courts. He felt there was a real interest in saving the tennis courts; it would be a great loss for the park; and we could also save a ton of money by changing a few small things. Kristen stated she had not been here through the whole genesis of the Tyler Park Master Plan but she did know it had gone through a very lengthy public process and the plan as it is now came out of that process with several stakeholders including Olmsted, Metro Parks, us and she did not know who else. She did not know how that needed to play in that to all that current discussion. Shawn stated the need for another round of community engagement before a big mistake

was made. Kristen called upon Martha for her comments. Before Martha could speak, Mike Gramig wanted to speak about Shawn's proposal which reflected a lot of work on his part but only on his part. Mike stated every issue we discussed on Monday night had been considered, discussed, researched and voted on before including the tennis courts, the steps and infrastructure during the process we went through to develop the Master Plan (which took about two years and was finally completed in 2010). There was never a major concern about the cost other than the efficient use of funds. He went on to say money had been approved by Olmsted for their capital projects of \$850,000 for which we had been waiting for ten years and Metro Council approved the City Budget to include a \$270,000 match to Metro Parks for Phase 1 of the Master Plan. At this point, Mike felt any major changes or overhaul of Phase 1 that Shawn's proposal had made would put at risk the \$1,500,000. The issues of the historic nature of the Park and the Local Landmarks Commission's designation of the Bridge as a local landmark were not insurmountable but in fact accommodated themselves to proposals to renovate, restore and so forth. To summarize, Mike stated what we got here was trying to change horses in midstream putting at risk \$1,500,000 in costs for a Master Plan we had approved especially what we existing now for the direction of where we were going take the Park's preservation and restoration. So to change direction and probably reopen the Master Plan would mean another \$30,000 and years of time to do which he felt meant to forget the money on the board now. Kristen wanted to know why Martha Berner was here tonight. Martha stated Metro Parks just learned Shawn was planning to pursue his version of the Master Plan and she was here to represent Metro Parks to give the Board a reminder some of the background on the Master Plan project. Metro Parks partnered with the Olmsted Parks Conservancy and the neighborhood associations to create an interactive process to really involve the neighborhood community in that process was the point was really important to remember. The Master Plan study cost \$25,000, took a year to do and took a lot of people's time. We hold that in a kind of trust as a public, planning document – people came out, gave time and effort, went to meetings and gave comments. She went over the Phase 1 major changes such as relocate the playground and the spray ground, demolish the two tennis courts and provide drainage improvements so that the playgrounds would be visible to parents and pedestrians. This area was designed to be in terms of Frederick Law Olmsted Sr. as Active Recreational with the tennis courts but she stated in terms of rehabilitating the park as long as the replacing activity is active recreational it would be okay. The four remaining tennis courts will be re-oriented and improved. She described the large area with the scenic lawn and spray pool as passive recreational for park enjoyment. There was a great deal of debate between Doug, Mike, Martha, Shawn and others about the pros and cons of Shawn's proposal and the Master Plan.

Adjournment: Kristen adjourned the TPNA Board Meeting at 8:55pm.