

Neighbors of Belknap Lookout Board Meeting
Tuesday, Apr. 11, 2017
Belknap Commons
6:30 pm

1. Call to order
2. Additions to agenda
3. Presentations
 - a. Disc Golf Course in Highland Park – Bryan Earvin
 - b. Monroe North Business Association – Diedre Deering
 - c. DTN (Gateway project) re: curb cut outs – Colin Cronin
4. Approval of minutes/financials
5. Committee updates
 - a. GVSU
 - b. Development
6. New Business:
 - a. Comment to City on Draft FY2018 Neighborhood Investment Plan
 - b. Opening a credit card at MPCU
 - c. Goals for May Semi-Annual Meeting
7. Old business – project updates
8. Public Comment
9. Adjournment

Upcoming Events:

- 4/13 – Planning Commission Hearing on 617 Fairview
- 4/20 – Development Committee Meeting 6:30 pm at 635 Clancy
- 4/20-4/23 – Poker Fundraiser 11:30 am-5:30 pm at King’s Poker Room
- 4/26 – GVSU Master Plan Open House at 6:30 pm, location TBA
- 5/6 – Dumpster Day from 8 am – 12 pm, 700-704 Prospect NE
- 6/10 – Coit Park Clean Up (Coit Creative Arts Academy PTO)
- 8/1 – National Night Out at 6:00 pm, Coit Park

Neighbors of Belknap Lookout Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, Mar. 14, 2017

Board Members Present:	Loretta Klimaszewski	Barbara LaBeau	Todd
Leinberger	John Skryski		Loren Sturrus
Johnathan Swets		Gretchen Warnimont	
Board Members Absent:	Jayne Johnson	Rob Kennedy	
Staff Present:	Elianna Bootzin		
Guests Present:	Angel Gonzalez	Marshall Grate	David Shannon

1. Call to order – Barbara called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.
2. Additions to agenda – The Board anticipated a number of additional updates, primarily under New Business, including changing the meeting time, a new entity at Clancy Street Ministries, celebrating Kristi’s years of service, greenspace maintenance, tree cutting along the railway, and Coit Park clean up.
3. Presentations
 - a. a. Kyle from Challenge Scholars, a GRCF/GRPS collaboration, brought information about students’ eligibility for free college. All Union HS freshmen (including students from the Belknap neighborhood as we are a feeder school) graduating with certain requirements can get at least 2 free years at GRCC. The program puts counselors in the schools but no gap year is permitted; Johnathan noted the latter is consistent with educational research. The board inquired about enrollment at Coit; the theme does a nice job drawing students from around the city. The board encouraged some kind of summer community service for the students if not year round schooling.
 - b. Dave from the Parks Department followed up on our earlier inquiry about opening the Coit Park restrooms. They are going to start planning sometime this summer for the whole park and want to engage residents in the process. They will keep us posted on timeline, and introduced staff member Karie Enriquez who will work on the project. It will not design Lookout Park but will consider coordinating amenities. The City does have jurisdiction over the stairs there, but not within the parks department. One of our residents, Lara, is a PhD student looking into opportunities for the park to include amenities related to aging in place. Barb noted that Newberry will be hosting workshops this summer since without bathrooms the park is not appropriate; she may ask the board to consider funding a scholarship at a later date.
4. Approval of minutes/financials – Gretchen motioned and Loren seconded that the minutes and financials be accepted; the motion passed. Future financials will add month over month changes in the balance and perhaps additional information; the change in building value will happen too.
5. Committee Updates:
 - a. GVSU – Most if not all present attended last night’s open house, which opened with a presentation and ended with small groups exchanging information and gathering ideas for the steering committee to look at. Elianna requested a quote for the Michigan Business Journal about our hopes for how they take the feedback; the board responded that the “MOU speaks to that”. Todd shared an update on the RFP: two developers will

present tomorrow to be scored against a values list. Any compensation for the ground will ultimately go to their board for approval. The selected developer's LITEC application would be submitted to the City in the fall, with building taking place in 2018.

- b. Development – In 2012, James Arslowicz from the City's public services department met with Kristi, Frank and Loretta about the greenspace behind 649 Sinclair. The City agreed to mow the space monthly and stop the dumping that occurred there. The issues have resurfaced, so Loren proposed writing a letter to Consumers and the City to have them addressed again. John motioned and Todd seconded that Loren should write the letter and have Elianna co-sign; the motion passed. We will wait and see if that also impacts the tree cutting along the railway. 123 Newberry has pulled its permit to start building; there is also a restaurant renovation going on at 1140 Plainfield (Flying Bridge).

6. New Business:

- a. Neighborhood Matching Fund – The City is offering up to \$2500 in matching grants for projects that develop citizen leadership. It was noted that speedbumps cost \$1000. We would like to update the mural at Clancy and Leonard for the June application deadline, which John will help with. In the meantime, Barbara and Elianna will prepare an application for the greenspace at 704 Clancy for the March deadline. Angel is planning to install the fence and gate there this spring.
- b. Bank – The board approved Elianna Bootzin, Gretchen Warnimont, Barbara LeBeau, and John Skryski as signers on the account.
- c. Meeting Time – The board agreed to move the meeting time to 6:30 pm.
- d. Clancy Street Ministries – Todd shared that The Other Way is part of the RCA's North Grand Rapids classis and will be exploring taking over the Clancy St Ministries building.
- e. Kristi – John recommended giving Kristi a gift as recognition for her 20 years of service. We would like to name the building in her honor (there is no obligation to Dr. Bob). It would be an informal plaque, not a legal name. Elianna will bring mockups to the celebration at 6 pm at Newberry Place on the 22nd. Angel will coordinate invitations for neighbors, and everyone will bring food.
- f. Community Event – Loren noted that next Monday from 7-9 there will be a free showing of a climate change movie at Aquinas hosted by the Sierra Club.
- g. Coit Park Clean Up – Barb announced that the Coit Park Clean Up coordinated by the school PTO will take place the 2nd week of June. Her Park PAL status gets them a grant.

7. Old Business:

- a. Mobility Committee – Angel is preparing to pull together the previously discussed mobility (not just parking) committee to look at parking, traffic and safety, and walkability. He anticipates including residents representatives from Lafayette to the bluff as well as DTN. It would host a series of meetings and produce and show results with the intention of being ahead of this fall's City initiative. Elianna will help clarify mission, goals. Angel also heard that the curb cuts at DTN's Gateway project were being pushed by the City to allow busses through. There would be 2 more parking spaces without the curb cuts than by adding them. Routes going up Michigan hill do not need the bus lane. Fred wants a bike path on Hastings.
- b. PILOT

- i. The board passed a motion to have Elianna investigate and invoice the City for the \$20k in PILOT funds; they will be listed as a dedicated fund on the financials.
 - ii. Barbara requested written proposals for projects be brought next month.
 - iii. No decision on PILOT spending was made at this time.
 - c. Charles Belknap Statue – Elianna will put the research about Charles and the statue on the website. Angel is preparing for hearings with the historic, parks, and arts advisory commissions, 1 in April, 2 in May to move the statue from Griff’s Ice House to the Coit/Hastings intersection. Rockford will do the move for \$15k. Elianna will also follow up with DTN regarding their donation and forward the board the proposal to relocate the statue. The statue should be in place by August for rededication.
8. Public Comment – No additional comments were offered.
9. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned around 7:30 pm.

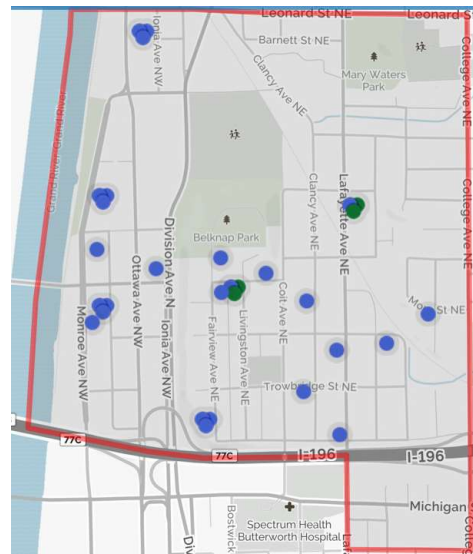
Director's Notes

Public Safety – www.grcity.us Online services → (Lookup) Crime Data

Destination is <http://grcity.us/police-department/Pages/Crime-Mapping.aspx>

Selected last 4 weeks with ½ mile circle around 800 Coit unfortunately losing the corners (left, below)

More recently there is some communication about graffiti around the City, sharing tags with SWAN



Development – www.grcity.us Online Services → (Permits & Applications) Permits & Applications Map
Selected 3/12-4/6 in the Belknap Lookout neighborhood (right, above)

Again, mostly small things on this map (furnaces, water heaters). A business on Monroe is replacing its sign, plumbing is being done for a future restaurant at 801 Ionia, a neighbor applied for a fire permit.

617 Fairview is now in the City's planning process. CopperRock Construction has a hearing scheduled with the planning commission for this Thursday. Final site plan (phases 1&2) and street view (phase 2):



Angel's Amendment for Coit development was approved by both the Planning & City Commissions.

Loren's letter regarding the greenspace at 712 North has been sent to David at the Parks Department. No reply has been made to date.

The vacant lot at 762 North is still for sale and considered buildable. Loretta and Johnathan are setting up a block meeting to determine the level of neighbor support for a community garden.

The Development Committee will meet at 6:30 pm on 4/20 at 635 Clancy to hear from RJM about an extension/rebuild of the L&L Market at Clancy and Fairbanks, as well as a 4 unit condo planned for the vacant lot at 637 Coit.

New Information

Atwater Brewing is holding a 5k race in the Monroe North area in the late afternoon/early evening of April 30.

Updates on Old Business

Our Neighborhood Matching Fund application for the greenspace at 704 Clancy has been submitted. We should receive notification of our status by the end of the week (4/14).

Clancy Street Ministries meeting is/was April 10; any further updates will be verbal.

Kristi is still thinking about how she'd like to be recognized in the office signage.

Rob has expressed interest in the Mobility Committee; not sure if Angel has heard from others.

GVSU in lieu of taxes money for "improvements" would still be available beyond end of fiscal year. Projects will be reviewed by GVSU/City/NOBL work group, we request payment, Eric presents to City Commission, we report on results. Are there options that reach more of the neighborhood? I wondered about promoting the City's Housing Rehabilitation Program (probably not necessary as we have 3.6% of their participation in Lead Removal and 2% in major rehab), or trying a new beautification effort (Roosevelt Park provided 200 residents and businesses with \$50 gift cards to increase curb appeal). We could also peek at some of the Corridor Improvement Districts for ideas (leaving out business-centric).

Angel submitted the application for the Parks and Historical Commissions' approval of moving the Charles Belknap statue. Not sure about status for arts advisory.

Admin

Digging deeper into City grant admin, financials, meeting more neighbors, GRPD training
Tutoring program volunteer recruitment is going slowly. Please refer anyone likely to be interested.

Goals:

5/9: Annual Report prepared

6/13: Development Committee processes recorded to set developer expectations

6/30: Programming (for City grant) planned for rest of calendar year

9/8: Comprehensive information available on website, launch monthly e-news (sooner better)

11/14: Walked all blocks in Specific Target Area to meet neighbors, put info in internal database

12/12: Rough program plan in place for all of 2018, hopefully including block captains