

# Neighbors of Belknap Lookout Board Meeting

Tuesday, August 8, 2017

Belknap Commons

6:30 pm

1. Call to order
2. Additions to agenda
3. Presentations
  - a. Proposed City Policy on Alcohol in Parks – Evette Pittman or Elizabeth White
  - b. L&L Market – Mark Kidd and/or Vik
4. Approval of May and June minutes/financials
5. Committee updates
6. New Business:
  - a. Appointment of Secretary
7. Old business:
  - a. Metered Parking at the Gateway
  - b. Reflections on Ellie Frey article
  - c. GVSU PILOT funds
  - d. Update on Mayor's Task Force on Housing Recommendations
8. Public Comment
9. Adjournment

## Upcoming Events:

Thurs Aug 17 – Coit Park planning meeting at Newberry Common House, 6 pm

Fri/Sat Aug 25/26 – Breakaway Music Festival at Belknap Park, volunteers needed 2p-2a

Thurs-Sun Sept 14-17 – Poker Event at Russo's, volunteers needed 10/10:30a – 5:30 pm

# Neighbors of Belknap Lookout Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 13, 2017

Board Members Present: Rob Kennedy Loretta Klimaszewski Barbara LaBeau  
Todd Leinberger John Skryski Loren Sturrus  
Johnathan Swets Gretchen Warnimont

Board Members Absent: Jayne Johnson

Staff Present: Elianna Bootzin

Guests Present: Angel Gonzalez Dean Rosendall Adam Williams

1. Call to order - The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm.
2. Additions - The Charles Belknap statue was added to the agenda.
3. Presentations
  - a. Colin Cronin (DTN) gave an update on expected business occupancy dates, with a primary purpose of securing support for their plan to add 2 hour max (digitally) metered parking on the south edge's retail zone in order to keep turnover high. Customer parking is also available on the top deck. They did submit the idea of cutout to LUDS for feedback and received approval but would come back to us if they would like to pursue it at a later date. This concept ties to the Mobility Committee's work, since for example with the wider lane drivers might go faster. There will be outdoor seating only underneath the building. As for greenspace, the planters would go away if parking were recessed. The board requested a recommendation re: supporting digital meters of the Mobility Committee.
  - b. Angel shared that all three approvals have been acquired and we just need to complete final paperwork with the vendors. Of our \$26k budget, \$15k will go to moving the statue. With trash cans and benches, we hit \$23,780. After the \$1,500 maintenance fund, we will have about \$750 to spend on a dedication ceremony, though those dollars may be tapped for adjusting irrigation lines.
4. 990 - Elianna reviewed our 2016 year end financial position as documented in our 990. We need to make a number of changes in order to operate more sustainably. Having the tenant helps, of course, but we will also try to reduce our phone bill, change accountants, apply for exemption from property tax, try to find interns, and look at the Johnson Center for Philanthropy and/or MSU tax law institute clinic. We did not formally approve the minutes or financials.
5. Committees
  - a. GVSU – We received the City's letter of concurrence with the GVSU master plan. Elianna will share the letter with the board. We expect to hear about the RFP soon.
  - b. Development – We have a very rough draft of a development process. The board was asked to add anything critical before delegating the completion to the Development Committee. Loren speculated that anything not already commercial is probably zoned lowed density residential; therefore the ASP gives an opportunity to build something else consistent with that future vision contingent on neighborhood approval (for example through Special Land Use). Gretchen noted that we value preservation. We need to understand the level of input/control of private property that is possible; covering such details as colors only works legally through an HOA or Historic District. We

will draw on previous work in this area. The project was referred to the Development Committee.

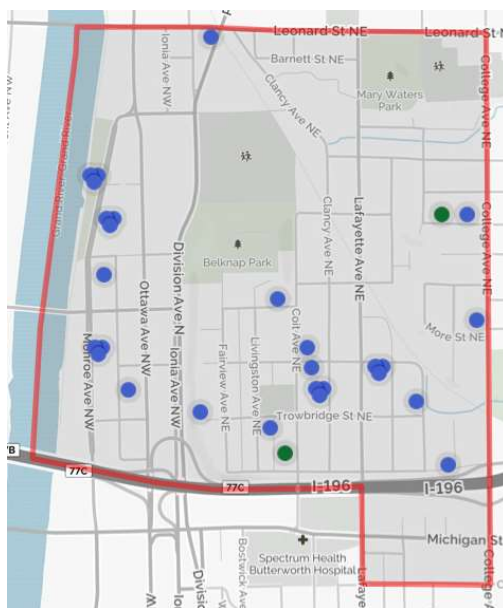
- c. Mobility Committee – an open invitation was issued to the first Mobility Committee meeting.
- 6. New Business
  - a. July meeting – we will not have a July meeting; Elianna will ask about firework use on the 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - b. Education series – Elianna will send out a reading in July.
  - c. Elianna will forward the housing document from the City.
- 7. Old Business
  - a. PILOT funds – Todd pointed out that avoiding sending checks back and forth with the City would not actually un-restrict our funds for the Linear Park. Elianna will convene a work group to bring a proposal to the board. Angel asked that mobility implementation be considered as well.
- 8. Public Comment – There was a comment about reporting dumping to the City. Gretchen requested and the board approved purchasing an AC unit for the office. Several people noted that traffic speed has increased recently. The L&L Market would like to stay open until 11 pm on Friday and Saturday; the board asked Loren to write a letter opposing the change. Post-meeting note: sending that letter turned out not to be an appropriate action at this time.

## Director’s Notes

**Public Safety** – [www.grcity.us](http://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)



**Development** – [www.grcity.us](http://www.grcity.us) Online Services → (Permits & Applications) Permits & Applications Map  
Selected 7/7-8/3 in the Belknap Lookout neighborhood (right, above). Again, mostly small things.

See attached letter showing development committee support of the zone change at Bradford and Lafayette. The exact wording of the 1025 Clancy approval regarding siding was “consult”; the marker drawing showing color location and images showing actual color are below:



3 Trowbridge is going to be a by-right design which was shown as a courtesy to the Development Committee. That application has been submitted to the Planning Department.

### **Updates on Old Business**

Vacant lot at 762 North – Elianna will begin looking at funding sources and building out an annual budget including insurance and property taxes.

Neighborhood Matching Fund – The swing set should be installed at the end of this week. Our project end date has been extended to October 9.

No further updates on 712 North, Clancy St. Ministries, or Kristi’s recognition in the office signage. Moving the Charles Belknap statue passed Arts Advisory as well as Historic and Parks commissions.

### **Admin**

Prepared and delivered public safety presentation as midpoint of training with GRPD and held National Night Out with help from several Newberry Cohousing volunteers. Continued tutoring program and submitted year end grant paperwork. Received license for next poker event September 14-17. Beginning discussions about homeless encampment under College Ave overpass. Opportunity to engage with New Development Corporation in getting blighted homes into their rehabilitation program. City applying for funding for next phase of Linear Park reaching from Coit all the way to College via the Connector.

**Attachment** – Development Letter [opens with logo], dated July 5, 2017

Dear Bazzani Building Company and City of Grand Rapids Planning Staff,

This letter is written in support of the zone change at 253 & 259 Bradford at 813 & 817 Lafayette. As presented to the Development Committee on June 28, 2017, the four parcels will be rezoned from low density residential to transitional city center to facilitate mixed-use commercial development of the properties.

The Development Committee believes this is an appropriate change not only because it is compliant with our Area Specific Plan; mixed-use commercial development also continues to be an appropriate path for future construction on that part of Lafayette. The Development Committee looks forward to meeting with the developer again in preparation for the combined parcels’ Special Land Use.

Sincerely, Neighbors of Belknap Lookout