

Neighbors of Belknap Lookout Board Meeting

Tuesday, October 10, 2017
NOBL Office, 700 Clancy Ave NE
6:30 pm

1. Call to order
2. Additions to agenda
3. Presentation/Discussion
 - a. The Other Way – Kurt Reppart
4. Approval of September minutes/financials
5. Committee updates
6. New Business:
 - a. Request from Angel to move \$500 from Statue Maintenance to Contingency
 - b. Nominating Committee
 - c. Annual Meeting
7. Old business:
8. Public Comment
9. Adjournment

Upcoming Events:

Postponed: ~~Wed Oct 11 – mobility committee meeting, 10 am at 700 Clancy~~
Sat Oct 28 – Sun Nov 5 – neighborhood clean up – garbage bags, yard waste tags/bags

Neighbors of Belknap Lookout Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 12, 2017

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

Board Members Absent: Todd Leinberger

Staff Present: Elianna Bootzin

Guests Present: Angel Gonzalez

1. Call to order - The meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm.
2. Additions – traffic, garden, and crime were added to the agenda.
3. Presentations
 - a. Pat Waring (GVSU) shared that they are very close to having an alternative parking plan south of the master plan boundaries. The 500 block building should be dedicated next May, after which the RFP for housing is expected to start construction in September 2018. It is slated to be 70% low income with a total of about 40 units.
4. The August minutes and financials were approved with an update that Elianna has talked to Wellhouse about the homeless encampment and is intending to provide service

recommendations at businesses; JP recommended adding a barrier; alcoholism is a compounding factor. It was noted that although we have money, most of it is restricted.

5. Old Business
 - a. L&L Market – With Mark from RJM in attendance, we moved this item up. We expect the dumpster to be moved off street, a picnic area, greenspace at edges, windows not blocked, sign to be placed on overhang etc. We considered the fact that the store is not in the ASP and determined that it should be grandfathered as an existing business that is landlocked and has the same owner over both lots to be developed. The Special Land Use is tied to the use/owner. The board voted to support the project’s SLU contingent on the development committee approving an MOU based on items like those mentioned above. Loren asked Elianna to provide an initial letter this week.
6. Committees
 - a. Mobility – We lumped the traffic item into this committee discussion. Angel shared that the first two meetings consisted of introductions to the topic. The next meeting will look at maps, parking options, one ways, traffic calming, etc. Elianna will type and copy the board on the last set of notes, and invite all to the October 11th meeting (not the 27th).
 - b. Safety – The crime topic was discussed here. Gretchen emphasized the importance of the traditional neighborhood watch activities and shared that Jayne still gets calls from residents. She would like to resume receiving information from the police department. We reviewed the activities that are measured as part of our grant, and noted that the homeless encampment conversations should be tracked under that area.
7. New Business
 - a. CAPER – Elianna will send a comment about the importance of our HUD funding to the City during this week’s comment period.
 - b. Diversity policy - The board approved the diversity policy to assist with grant funding.
 - c. NAC – Elianna will continue collaboration with the other neighborhood associations.
8. Old Business, continued
 - a. Partnership with The Other Way – Elianna will ask SWAN and West Grand about their experiences with the Westside Collaborative. If we can keep our organization from being/perceived as a religious one, we will be willing to continue the conversation.
 - b. Leadership – Elianna shared a reference chart on major motions from Robert’s Rules.
 - c. Curb Appeal – Loren, Loretta, and possibly Barbara will help finalize plans for the curb appeal contest. Elianna will share more information with them about Roosevelt Park’s.
9. Public Comment – The garden on North St may need assistance from City and County Commissioners to make the purchase happen. Coit Park’s design has been finalized; it will move the play area, remove the wall, add trees, an Amphitheatre, outhouse, and drinking fountain. Elianna met a nursing student who inquired about health challenges; in addition to the pervasive obesity and diabetes, Elianna remembered the City is thinking about needs related to aging, and the group suggested cancer by the old plating company. An update on the metered parking: the City cannot provide a pay station at this time but it is possible to pay using a touchtone phone (and hopefully the payment processor will accept gift cards for those who generally prefer cash). Feedback on last month’s concert included problems with traffic, parking and noise. Elianna shared a heads up from West Grand about the Liquor Control Commission’s

half mile rule; there were missed feelings and the group declined to submit any comment. We will discuss the annual meeting next month.

10. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned.

Director's Notes

Preparatory information for New Business items:

Request from Angel: We used much of the Contingency Fund for the statue move to repair the irrigation; there is still \$100 available. Angel would like to put a higher-end material around the base of the statue, and is therefore requesting \$500 from the statue's maintenance fund to complete the project. Elianna did not approve the transfer, and therefore this request is an appeal to the board.

Nominating Committee: Assuming John S. and Loretta would like to run for the board again, all other members are eligible to serve on the nominating committee. The committee will be responsible for screening applicants for the board and running the election at the November annual meeting.

Annual Meeting: Dr. Wendy Falb is scheduled as our primary speaker regarding the GRPS Transformation Plan. Elianna recommends additional information, if not a second speaker, regarding how the City can help meet residents' needs through 311 (phone, online, app). We should consider a display of information on mobility and a discussion within tables of neighbors recording what they like and want to see improved in the neighborhood. Board candidates should speak before the vote.

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)

Elianna is participating in the Citizens Police Academy and will be out of town 10/18-20 for the Crime Prevention Association of Michigan conference in Traverse City.



Development – www.grcity.us Online Services → (Permits & Applications) Permits & Applications Map Selected 9/7-10/4 in the Belknap Lookout neighborhood (right, above). Again, mostly small things.

Developers are moving ahead with previously approved projects: Demolition permits were requested for Bradford and Lafayette. The Fairview condos and Clancy storage units are getting started as well.

In addition, the DEQ is preparing to sell 719 Prospect.

Updates on Old Business

Vacant lot at 762 North – Neighbors enjoyed the celebration and are interested in making further improvements to the lot/getting involved with the purchase. Elianna has reached out to Dave Allen.

Neighborhood Matching Fund – Neighbors enjoyed this celebration, too. Still working on a sign.

Homeless encampment – The railroad owns the embankment by the bridge, meaning it may be difficult to get permission to clean up the graffiti there.

PILOT Funds – Payment was approved by the City and still needs to be processed.

No further updates on 712 North, Kristi's recognition in the office signage.

Admin

Continued tutoring program. Launched new website. Assisted neighbors with landlord and code compliance issues. Continued discussion with other neighborhoods, participated in Rose Fellowship discussion re: transportation, attended senior listening tour. Completed quarterly grant report.

Initial RJM Letter:

September 15, 2017

To RJM Properties/L&L Market and Members of the Planning Commission,

The NOBL board voted on September 12, 2017 to conditionally support RJM/L&L's Special Land Use application to demolish and rebuild the L&L Market. The new building would cover two lots, as shown on the 3/13/2017 Preliminary Concept drawing by Nederveld. NOBL's support is specifically contingent on our development committee's approval of an MOU documenting expectations of the owner and developer. The MOU will provide details such as providing greenspace and seating area, outdoor trash can, clear visibility through all windows, and restricting signage to the overhang. Despite the market's omission from the ASP, we acknowledge the business itself is already long-established in the community and feel the expansion is acceptable given that the two properties are landlocked and are under the same ownership. We very much look forward to having more groceries available in the neighborhood.

Yours sincerely,
Neighbors of Belknap Lookout