

Neighbors of Belknap Lookout Semi-Annual General Membership Meeting

Tuesday, November 14, 2017

Coit Creative Arts Academy

6:30 pm

1. Welcome
2. Guest Presentation: GRPS Transformation Plan – GPRS BoE President Dr. Wendy Falb
3. Neighborhood Update: GVSU Campus – GVSU Community Relations Director Pat Waring
4. Brief Statements from NOBL Board Candidates/Vote for 3 Open Seats
5. Neighborhood Improvement Activity
6. Announcement of New Board Members/General Meeting Conclusion
7. Board Business Item: Response to Fairview Project Changes

Neighbors of Belknap Lookout Semi-Annual Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 9, 2017

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

Board Members Absent: Jayne Johnson Loren Sturrus

Staff Present: Elianna Bootzin

Guests Present: Seth Bjorlie Angel Gonzalez Tim & Amanda Kelch
Alan Otis Adam Williams

1. Members introduced themselves and shared current concerns. The amount of trash in the neighborhood was a common theme; we should consider a pick up event. Several attendees would commit to supporting gardening at 762 North. Others worried about the speed of traffic in various locations such as Coit and Fairview. The potential for a stop sign at Trowbridge was mentioned. These last two issues will be referred to the new mobility committee, as will information about new speed bump technology in use elsewhere in the City (Union & Cherry? Benjamin?).
2. Elianna shared the 2016 annual report, which focuses on our achievements in leadership and public safety.
3. Alan talked about the advantages of the residential permit program in the original zone (much calmer, less competition for parking). Potential expansion of the program will be assessed by the Mobility Committee.
4. Elianna explained that we have the opportunity to propose improvements in the neighborhood to be funded by GVSU's payment in lieu of taxes and shared a list of potential options. Gretchen mentioned that we have encouraged curb appeal in the past. Some liked adding lights down the stairs, and added ideas like planting flowers around the Bradford stairs, providing incentives for trash pick up, and augmenting funds available for renovating Coit Park . No conclusion was reached.
5. One final issue was raised during wrap up; late night dog walkers in Belknap Park are concerned about the drug use they see there. Elianna will touch base with GRPD.

Meet the Candidates

Brian Bremer – I have been a resident and landlord in Belknap Lookout for 20 plus years. During that time I spent 10 years on the Board and served on many committees. I want to help direct the director.

Steve Faas – I have been a resident of Belknap since 1995 and have most recently worked at Clancy Street Ministries and am now semi-retired. I have been off and on the NOBL board since the late 90's. I participated in the ASP plan for NOBL and have worked to see that enacted. I also was on a task force that helped to write the memorandum of understanding between NOBL, the city and GVSU. I would like to see the neighborhood continue to push for "controlled" development in the spirit of the ASP. I believe we have a strong neighborhood based on our great socio-economic diversity. I live at 817 Clancy AVE with my wife of 32 years and my two youngest children Sydney and Joey.

Angel Gonzalez - I am a homeowner first, a residential builder who loves his neighborhood and wants to make sure that we think of everyone and not just a select group.

Jill Gonzalez – Hi my name is Jillian Love Gonzalez. I have lived in Belknap for 10 years. I am so happy I got the pleasure of knowing and loving this neighborhood. I would love to obtain a seat on the board. I honestly can say I have the neighborhood's best interest at heart.

Loretta Klimaszewski - The main goal I would like to achieve as a member of the NOBL board is the purchase of the lot at 762 North for the purpose of a community garden. Qualifications: Currently serving on the NOBL board. Participating in the acquisition and development of a community garden on North street. Thirty year resident of the Belknap Community. Over twenty years involvement with the Michigan Education Association. Completed internship with the National Education Association.

Sondra Loucks Wilson - Sondra Loucks Wilson and her husband, Kelly, have lived on the 400 block of Shirley for 16 years. In that time, Sondra has helped to organize two street parties, was instrumental in getting the Bradford Street stair railings fixed and stairs cleared in winter, and wrote about and advocated for the cobblestones of Trowbridge and North Streets. Sondra has participated many of the conversations around the development of the neighborhood, including taking part in the development of the ASP. "For a neighborhood to prosper and stand strong against outside forces, its residents need to be informed. They need to find common ground, respect and acknowledge one another's needs. Homeowners, renters, landlords, old-timers, newbies, rich, and poor, all of us are responsible for making our neighborhood what it is - for good or bad." Sondra hopes to work with other NOBL board members in developing a strategy that will benefit all residents of the neighborhood.

Dean Rosendall - I would sincerely like to serve on your board. Belknap is an area I care deeply about, and call home. I believe my education and experience in finance, construction, sustainability, and organizational/system assistance will add value. I understand finance and believe we can create multiple neighborhood fund raising ventures that will have positive financial returns for neighborhood betterment. I am also very willing to assist in the community projects like the garden, through fundraising, self donation, and construction assistance and donation there too. I am not into titles, yet am the owner and president of a Grand Rapids based commercial construction firm and believe I can leverage that to assist us in clarity when new construction projects are presented to us. And, I completely embrace rehabilitation of existing properties, and believe we should save the structures and/or repurpose materials into new ones. I have remodeled multiple properties in Belknap, implementing these concepts. I hold a US patent in the sustainable sector and believe as a neighborhood we can apply more sustainable practices, and would embrace spearheading these efforts - like the community garden! I would be honored to serve and hope for the opportunity.

Miriam Teft - I have lived in the Belknap Lookout neighborhood for the last 2 and a half years with my 3 kids. I work in higher education and am very interested in contributing to a healthy and thriving neighborhood. I would like to work to make ways for all residents to easily engage and invest in the community around them.