

Neighbors of Belknap Lookout Board Meeting

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

1. Call to order and additions to agenda
2. Presentation: Coldbrook development – Nic Hibma and Shana Shroll
3. Approval of March minutes and financials
4. Financial motions: Budget amendment (\$52,000 Linear Park), line of credit at MPCU
5. Committee updates:
 - a. Development: Met 719 Prospect – motion to request Charrette
 - b. Fundraising: Confirm NMF apps submitted – block parties, garden, mile markers
 - c. Safety
6. New Business:
 - a. Practice for May
 - b. Update on City's Annual Action Plan (our CDBG allocation)
7. Miscellaneous & Public Comment (Breakaway Festival, Maple syrup)
8. Adjournment

2018 Schedule:

Knitting continues first and third Saturdays in April and May – feel free to join us at 700 Clancy at 10 am. TBD - Neighborhood Clean Up, Harvest Celebrations.

Apr 10 - board meeting, 6:30 pm 700 Clancy

Apr 14 – Mary Waters Park clean up, 10 am

Apr 19 – tour of 221 Trowbridge Flats, 12:30-2 pm with light refreshments

Apr 28 – Highland Park clean up, 10 am

May 5 – Coit Park clean up, 1 pm

May 8 - semi annual meeting re: goals, 6:30 pm East Leonard Elementary

May 31-Jun 3 - poker tournament at Russo's 6209 S Division 10:15 am-5:30 pm (no knitting today)

Sign up at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/904044DA5AC2FA31-sell1>

Jun 12 - board meeting, 6:30 pm 700 Clancy

Jun 23 – dumpster day, 8 am-12 pm 700 Prospect (tentative)

Jul 10 - board meeting, 6:30 pm 700 Clancy

Aug 7 - national night out, Mary Waters Park?

Aug 14 - board meeting, 6:30 pm 700 Clancy

Sep 11 - board meeting, 6:30 pm 700 Clancy

Sep 27-30 - poker tournament at Russo's 6209 S Division 10 am-5:30 pm

Oct 9 - board meeting, 6:30 pm 700 Clancy

Nov 8-11 - poker tournament at Russo's 6209 S Division 10 am-5:30 pm

Nov 13 - annual meeting & board election, 6:30 pm Coit Creative Arts Academy

Dec 11 - board meeting, 6:30 pm 700 Clancy

Neighbors of Belknap Lookout Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 13 2017

Board Members Present:	Steve Faas	Jill Gonzalez	Rob Kennedy
	Loretta Klimaszewski	Barbara LaBeau	Loren Sturuss
	Jonathan Swets		
Board Members Absent:	Brian Bremer	Todd Leinberger	
Staff Present:	Elianna Bootzin		
Guests Present:	Betsy Adevai	Chris Swank (GVSU)	

1. Call to order - The meeting was called to order.
2. Additions – GVSU was added to the agenda under New Business.
3. The Minutes and Financials were approved. Loretta recommended checking mailed advertisements for personal check sales.
4. Committees
 - a. Development – Loren introduced the parking lot at 601 Ottawa. The group was content to let it go by without participating in the hearing. The State Land Bank has received its RFQ response for 719 Prospect. We talked about the environmental conditions and the seepage study across the street. We’ve been asked to propose action items: contacting neighbors, bringing a design, modifying, etc. Elianna will polish, and Loren would like a call about the process. Development Committee will be involved in next step. There was a digression about the Bazzani project stalling. The apartment owner off of College near East Leonard would like to add three houses on Coldbrook and plans to go door-to-door to meet nearby neighbors; the board would like to see the final site plan.
 - b. Mobility – Residential permit parking expansion was discussed initially for the area around Coit Park; ultimately the board voted 6-0-1 to submit the application for an expansion north from the existing zone along the 700 and 800 blocks of Fairview and Lafayette and the 700 blocks of Coit and Clancy, along with Fairbanks and Newberry. We discussed alternative transit and wondered about other solutions. Loren did hear that the process is being simplified and the caregiver issue is being addressed.
 - c. Others: Fundraising – Loretta is back in for disc golf scramble. Loren is gathering information to be able to plan that event as well as a carnival for 2019 and a walk/run. Communications – We’d like a bulletin board for announcements at the office and at College/Bradford. Health/Nutrition/Education – We’d like to sync with The Other Way’s new staffer, and Elianna will ask if we can invite others to the ABCD training with them. We want to be able to offer GED prep and English/Spanish.
5. New business:
 - a. GVSU – 500 Lafayette will be completed April 2 and occupied May 1. Traffic will be down at the end of March. Fence retention wall still needs to be built on the east, then the construction fence will come down. Construction on Lafayette is likely to begin early;

when it's done there will be a bike lane. Michigan Street lane closures will start April 2 and be done in 5 weeks for infrastructure. The ramp will start after the semester, with partial opening slated for January 2020. Loren asked Chris about a large used copier.

- b. Board Governance – In addition to the information Elianna provided, Barb brought a handout about the importance achieving balance with both an engaged board and an engaged executive director. The working board aspect is also critical, with the board as a body setting parameters for work by its committees. We will recommend the fall session of the Neighborhood Leadership Academy.
 - c. By-laws – In addition to the expected conclusions to be delegated to the by-laws committee we noted that there may be some legal opposition to a poll tax. We wondered whether to codify the method used to choose replacement board members.
 - d. Semi-Annual meeting – Loretta and Loren will judge the curb appeal contest. Elianna will work on designing the postcard.
6. Old Business:
- a. HousingNOW – We reiterated the importance of attendance at the public hearing.
 - b. NMF – We will form three project teams: Mile markers (Loren, Barb and Rob), Garden at 762 North (John, Loretta, and outreach to Tim and Amanda Kelch and Zach Stepanovich) and block parties (Jill, Elianna, and outreach to Miriam and friends).
7. Public Comment – We mentioned the suitability of Lafayette for an extension of a CID.
8. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 pm.

Meeting Information

Financials: 1. We finally obtained an invoice from the City for the \$52,000 in grant funds we raised for the first section of the Linear Park. **We should formally amend the budget** and disburse those funds. **2. We should also seek a line of credit** (“open end signature loan”) with My Personal Credit Union in case we need to access additional unrestricted funds during the annual August cash flow pinch. Rob will (or another officer can) formally submit an application and provide the last two years of completed tax returns to verify income. The interest rate is 13.9% with payments due the last day of every month; the minimum payment is 2% of the balance. (Note our use of it this year is currently somewhat likely as our application to the City Assessor’s office for exemption from property tax has been denied. The next step is an appeal to the State Tax Commission regarding classification, due June 30.)

Development: The Development Committee has met with the State Land Bank and an RFQ respondent to assess their suitability. In order to ensure extensive opportunities for community participation in the development of 719 Prospect, **we should formally request that the State Land Bank include holding a charrette as a condition of the sale.**

Fundraising – Confirm all three Neighborhood Matching Fund applications were submitted.

Practice for May – Elianna will share images from MOBL NOBL, GR Forward, the GVSU Master Plan and the ASP with short descriptive text outlining our major goals for changes in the neighborhood.

City’s Annual Action Plan – We were recommended to receive the same allocation as this year (no change in percentages as requested). Elianna will share any additional info she receives from City staff and we can determine whether to submit a public comment before April 23.

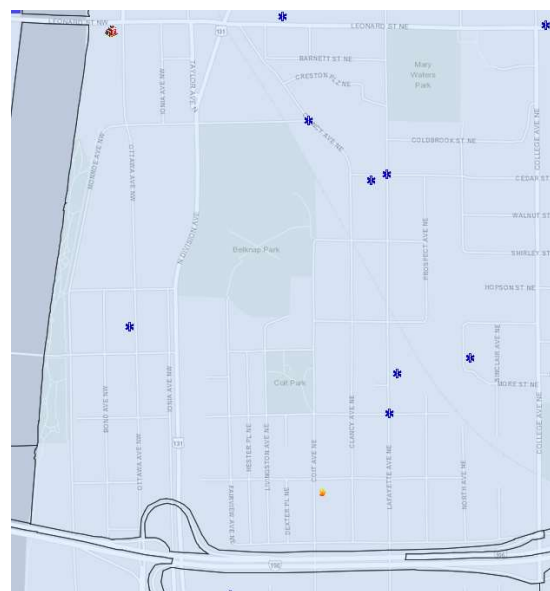
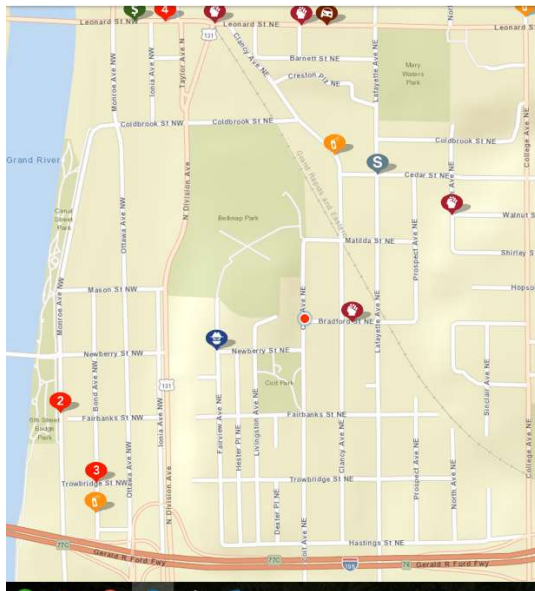
Breakaway Festival – The Festival is coming back to Belknap August 24 and 25. Elianna will meet with Chris on Monday April 9 and provide a verbal update. We can then collect feedback.

Maple Syrup - Loretta would like to propose selling maple syrup as a fundraiser next year.

Regular Report Contents:

Crime (last four weeks) from www.crimemapping.com

Fire from <https://grandrapids.maps.arcgis.com/apps/View/index.html?appid=50bbc7410e5447b99edde0e32d62f4c4> (one week)



Public Safety: The first significant policy recommendation by the City’s Police Policy and Procedure Review Task Force is now on the books and in effect. At March 27’s Committee of the Whole meeting, the Task Force’s co-chairs detailed the Grand Rapids Police Department’s (GRPD) new Youth Interactions Policy. The policy – developed by residents and police officers of every rank in consultation with 21st Century Policing and several community partners – codifies the police department’s expectation that officers use good judgement and act in the best interest of youth.

More details and a link to the policy can be found at <https://www.grandrapidsmi.gov/Shortcut-Content/News-Media/Task-Force-helps-shape-GRPD's-new-Youth-Interaction-Policy>.

Development:

- CopperRock has submitted permits for construction of the expected condos at 627 and 635 Fairview Ave NE.
- The parking lot at 601 Ottawa was approved at Planning Commission.
- The City applied for its permit to demolish the bathroom at Coit Park.
- The brownfield application for Coit Square (600 block) will be discussed at the City’s Economic Development team meeting on Tuesday April 10 at 12:30 pm.

Updates on Old Business

- No further updates on 712 North, Kristi’s recognition in the office signage.
- HousingNOW – The four zoning proposals were postponed indefinitely. The Committee of the Whole on Tuesday April 10 will discuss additional community engagement strategies.
- Homeless Encampment – Terry has been seeing patrols, as well as some undesired behavior. We will be painting the graffiti on the abutment as part of our park clean up there on April 28.

Annual Goal Tracking

Fundraisers held: x First (poker) o Second

Increased network:

	Start	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Goal
Email	146	156	163								250
FB	126	137	145								230
ND	224	233	236								330
Pd M	70	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	70

Complete current projects:

- Cats – trapped ten cats; Carol’s Ferals is adjusting operations later this month
- Clear Vegetation – planned for summer
- Communications – second postcard at the printer
- Curb Appeal – announcing with second postcard, judge at May meeting
- Litter Reduction – first 2 park clean ups announced, planning 3 more by end of June
- Mobility – getting quote for mile markers for urban walking trail
- Trail Cams – need to research specific device choices
- Trash Cans – enlisted help from GVSU to apply pressure to the Rapid

Progress on Belknap Hill, Linear Park/Hastings Connector for completion 2020/2021:

Hastings Connector design is making progress, City securing funding to build.
Belknap Hill design postponed, waiting for Hastings Connector information.

Admin:

- Submitted 2 grant requests (1 declined), identified 1 more for fall to increase our long term maintenance funds for the Linear Park to \$50,000 so we can open an endowment at the Community Foundation. Will approach DTE this month for general operating. Identified new funding categories to research for Belknap and Hastings projects.
- No word yet from GVSU re: new equipment available to donate large volume copier.
- USPS did not get enough volume of mail in the collection box at Coit and Hastings to continue the service. There is a box inside Spectrum on the south side of Michigan and Coit. A staffer will also help us find out if it is possible to demonstrate high enough potential volume to put the box back (for example by neighbors setting out mail for carriers to collect at their houses).
- Conducting scheduling meeting with AAAWM Title V trainee Tuesday April 10. Would provide a senior for 16 hours a week to help with volunteer recruitment, business solicitation, event planning, and starting a senior social group. A neighborhood volunteer is also helping with HousingNOW information distribution, social media, and communication.

- The Other Way has hired their Community Connector to work at the Clancy St Ministries building. Ayanfe Jamison lives just up the street and is a doula and experienced organizer from North Carolina.
- Friends of GR Parks may be willing to serve as fiduciary for large scale fundraising for the Linear Park portion of the Hastings Connector project and Switchback Park. They have done this with other entities and should be able to provide a written framework.
- Elianna will be serving as co-facilitator for the North End Wellness Coalition.
- Elianna will also be getting more public safety hours helping plan the Operation Safe and Secure Expo (regarding emergency preparedness) for September 18.

- DGRI will be installing Norwell Outdoor Fitness equipment in the 6th Street and Canal Parks in May/June.
- Friends of GR Parks will hold their annual Green Gala at Belknap Park on August 16th.
- DGRI is in the planning stages for a downtown residents council. They are being very open and inclusive with neighborhood organizations in the process. High rise residents will likely be invited to affiliate wherever they feel they most belong.