

Neighbors of Belknap Lookout Board Meeting

Tuesday, June 12, 2017
NOBL Office, 700 Clancy Ave NE
6:30 pm

Mission: To advocate for and enhance the quality of life in the Belknap community.

Vision: To be a vibrant, diverse and desirable place to live in Grand Rapids.

1. Call to order and additions to agenda
2. Presentations
 - a. Neighborhood Leadership Academy awards: Stacy Stout, City of Grand Rapids
 - b. Residential Permit Parking Expansion – Josh Owens, Mobile GR, City of GR
3. Approval of April and May minutes and May financials
4. Committee updates:
 - a. Development (Coit Square tabled at Brownfield)
 - b. Garden at 762 North
 - c. Bylaws (Schedule first work session)
5. Old Business: Accept our CDBG allocation from the City (resolution)
6. New Business:
 - a. Hastings Connector inclusion of Trowbridge
 - b. GVSU Time Capsule
7. Miscellaneous & Public Comment
 - a. Gift cards still available for curb appeal contest
 - b. Neighborhood Match Fund applications again this month (Loren – vegetation)
 - c. Yoga at Lookout Park on Thursday nights starts June 21
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.

Jun 16 – clean up, 1-3 pm Lookout Park

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

Sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904044da5ac2fa31-volunteer>

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

Jul 19 – 500 Lafayette Open House 5-8 pm

Aug 7 - national night out, Coit 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, April 10, 2017

Board Members Present:	Brian Bremer	Jill Gonzalez	Rob Kennedy
	Loretta Klimaszewski	Barbara LaBeau	Todd Leinberger
	Loren Sturuss	Jonathan Swets	
Board Members Absent:	Steve Faas		
Staff Present:	Elianna Bootzin		
Guests Present:	Nic Hibma	Mark Kidd	Don Rietema
	Dean Rosendall	Shana Shroll	

1. Call to order - The meeting was called to order.
2. Presentations – Greenlight Management presented information on their plan to add three single family homes on Coldbrook. They still plan to talk to nearby neighbors. It will be a second SLU for the property, ideally at the June 14 hearing. 421 Quimby is a similar bilevel. There were inquiries about the look (how it would place a garage) and flooding. They would be market rate. The developer would like to have our support; in order to prepare for that, a development meeting with detailed drawings would be needed.
3. The Minutes were approved.
4. Financial motion: The budget amendment was approved. Rob will plan to seek the line of credit.
5. Committee updates:
 - a. Development – We are still waiting for a letter of intent which allows action while the lot is held at 701 Prospect. The board voted to request that the bidder hold a charrette for the property as part of the contract with state Land Bank. Loren will touch base with the state Land Bank staff.
 - b. Neighborhood Match Fund – All three applications for block parties, the community garden and the urban trail were submitted.
 - c. Safety – Loretta will talk with JP about block captains. Rob and Elianna will work electronically and ask for contacts. We will invite JP to the May meeting. Jon may flyer. The group noted previous issues at Coit Park and on Livingston and agreed we should thank JP again for his work on the encampment along the railroad under College.
6. Practice for May meeting: We will not announce a curb appeal winner – this is the kickoff. We will have a display board. We will plug events, park planning, GVSU open house, Breakaway. Loretta noted that Carol’s Ferals will be closing their facility. We will need to buy our own traps. Elianna will also email the board with information to submit public comment on the CDBG grant.
7. Public comment: we talked about the Breakaway Festival returning, how to make maple syrup – Loren, Loretta, Jon and Rob will be the committee for that. Mark reminded us about the open house at 221 Trowbridge on April 19; L&L construction will start in January. They need to adjust their MOU, adding to PDR rather than SLU. They will also change a window to accommodate kitchen sink. Dean then shared some changes to the next set of buildings on Fairview. They are a

different length, so it is not quite the same as the previous set. Still, 18 and 19 are similar to 9 and 10. There will be 7% more transparency from the highway. The board was made aware.

- 8. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 7:43 pm.

Neighbors of Belknap Lookout Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 8, 2017

Board Members Present:	Brian Bremer	Steve Faas	Rob Kennedy
	Loretta Klimaszewski	Barbara LaBeau	Todd Leinberger
	Loren Sturrus	Jonathan Swets	
Board Members Absent:	Jill Gonzalez		
Staff Present:	Elianna Bootzin		
Guests Present:	See attendance sheet		

1. GVSU – Chris Swank spoke about upcoming construction on the ramp on Michigan, the 333 Michigan academic building, and the Thursday July 19 open house from 5-8 pm for the Raleigh J. Finkelstein building at 500 Lafayette.
2. Crosswalk Ordinance Presentation – Elianna mentioned that drivers must now stop, not yield, for pedestrians in crosswalks.
3. Safety Tips – GRPD Crime Prevention Coordinator Julie Niemchick spoke about the new victim assistance unit which is seeking volunteers for extensive training.
4. Organization Goals - Board members spoke about a variety of small scale current projects, highlighted three major public space goals for the organization which will depend on larger entities for completion: construction of the Hastings Connector and Linear Park, a better way down Belknap Hill, and improved pedestrian connections to businesses on Michigan and Plainfield; noted that some progress has been made on issues raised by residents last fall: year round trash cans at Coit Park (part of this summer's renovation), a USPS mailbox at Coit and Hastings (there may be a way to demonstrate it will be used; there is one inside Spectrum on the south side of Michigan), a dog park (request it during the park redesign process this summer), better dog poop pickup (see mailer); and further encouraged participation in park planning for Belknap and Lookout Parks this summer, among other topics.

Meeting Information

Residential Permit Parking Expansion

The Board should have received the parking study packet previously. To summarize: We have received MobileGR's recommendation to extend the Residential Permit Parking Program. Based on parking survey data, the proposed extension will add Coit from Fairbanks to Newberry, Fairbanks from Livingston to Lafayette, and Trowbridge and Hastings from Clancy to Lafayette. All adults living at affected addresses will have a chance to vote by June 29 whether to expand the zone; if over 50% of votes are in favor, the expansion will move to the MobileGR Commission (July) followed by City

Commission (August), to take effect in November. Josh Owens will present on the topic and answer any questions. Note: The department is also taking a recommendation to streamline the process to the MobileGR Commission on Thursday July 14. It would automate the parking studies (no neighborhood request required) and remove the election step, opting instead for a public hearing between the MobileGR Commission and City Commission approval steps.

Committees:

Development (Coit Square tabled at Brownfield)

Angel's Coit Square project was discussed at the city's brownfield development authority meeting in April regarding funding. The preparatory materials can be found at http://grandrapidscitymi.ig2.com/Citizens/Detail_LegiFile.aspx?Frame=&MeetingID=4747&MediaPosition=&ID=6001&CssClass. The application was tabled due to a request for more information on how the project would address displacement, as reflected in the minutes at <https://grandrapidscitymi.ig2.com/Citizens/FileOpen.aspx?Type=12&ID=3396>.

Bylaws – let's take a moment to schedule our first work session – Loren, Todd, Brian, Elianna

Garden & Feral Cats update (etc?) from Loretta

Other? Mobility, Safety, Health, Nutrition and Education, Fundraising, Communication

Accept our CDBG allocation from the City (resolution)

Public Safety	\$18,924
Neighborhood Leadership	\$16,437

The City Commission approved these figures at one of their May meetings. We need to formally accept (Elianna will quickly read off the required resolution).

Hastings Connector inclusion of Trowbridge

The latest drawing from the City of Grand Rapids for the Hastings Connector (a roundabout at Sinclair and Hastings sending traffic north and then east out to College) includes an option to extend Trowbridge to Sinclair. The City will be submitting a grant application in July and needs to know whether to include the new Trowbridge extension by June 25th in order to complete edits in time for submission. NOBL has been charged with collecting neighbor input. We've issued a digital survey and will flyer Trowbridge. How else do we need to collect, analyze and interpret input for the GVSU Work Group?

GVSU Time Capsule – GVSU will be placing a time capsule in the cornerstone of the Finkelstein building. NOBL is welcome to include an item. The dimensions are 24” high x 12” wide x 4” deep. Is there anything we want to include?

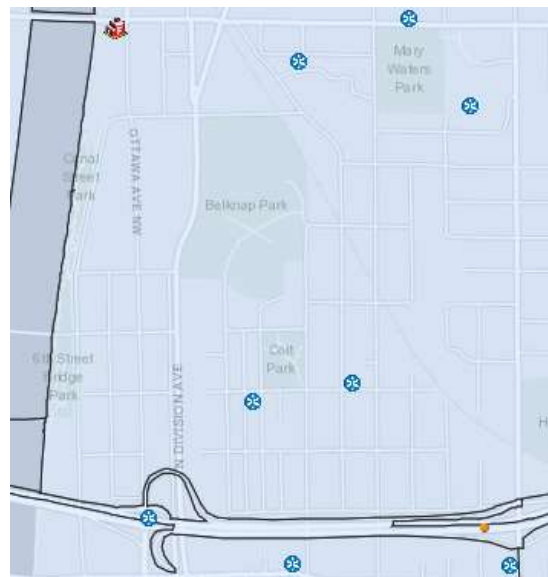
Brief announcements – please note: gift cards still available for curb appeal contest; Neighborhood Match Fund applications are open again this month (Loren is planning to do one to augment our GVSU funds to remove vegetation from sidewalks); DGRI & Parks and Rec are bringing free yoga classes to Lookout Park on Thursday nights starting June 21.

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: We’ve held two inaugural Neighborhood Watch meetings and have two good block captains in place collecting contact information for their blocks, with a third likely to join in on the block in between them. They are all concerned with the speed of traffic and will likely organize a traffic calming information session for neighbors. We had a significant incident (attempted rape) in the neighborhood; many neighbors engaged around the shared GVSU safety alert on that topic. There was also a fire on the 600 block of Coit.

Development:

- Bazzani has an application in for an administrative departure on reduced transparency for stairwells at Bradford and Lafayette, from 70% to 53.4%.
- Copperrock has permits in for several more of their buildings.

- Homewood Suites has a permit in for their parking lot on Plainfield as well as the two demolition permits for the buildings that currently occupy the space.
- Regarding housing on Coldbrook, neighbors don't mind removal of access drive (but thought it was required); do not want housing.

Updates on Old Business

- No further updates on 712 North, Kristi’s recognition in the office signage.
- HousingNOW – WMCAT is meeting with neighborhood associations to plan the community engagement sessions promised for the four zoning proposals. The rental fee ordinance has been drafted and scheduled for a public hearing on June 12; text can be found at <http://grandrapidscitymi.igm2.com/Citizens/FileOpen.aspx?Type=1&ID=3622>.
- 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) x Second

Increased network:

	Start	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Goal
Email	146	156	163	-	190						250
FB	126	137	145	-	162						230
ND	224	233	236	-	246						330
Pd M	70	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	70

Complete current projects:

- Cats – trapped ten cats; ordered our own traps; will be using C-SNIP
- Clear Vegetation – will be taking an event approach after NMF application
- Communications – need to determine month/focus for final (if not October)
- Curb Appeal – ~2/3rds through distribution of gift cards – encourage more entrants!
- Litter Reduction – one more park clean up to go, then Dumpster Day June 23
- Mobility – walking trail on hold; may focus on traffic calming
- Trail Cams – choosing Bushnell product
- Trash Cans – preparing encroachment permit application, contact property owners

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

- Hastings Connector in City budget, additional grant funding sought as discussed.
- Belknap Hill design in DGRI’s FY2020 budget.

Admin:

- Completed Master Citizen Planner classes taught by MSU Extension with board member Brian Bremer and neighbor Jeff Thomas.
- Had first post-NLA session with Matthew Downey from the Johnson Center; focus of coaching will be developing a work plan based on the vision and goals we set as a group.
- Have contacts to host 5 block parties using NMF funds, hoping to find one more – we will reach at least 3 corners of the neighborhood as well as the center and the east.
- Continued participation with North End Wellness Coalition, Preparedness Collaborative, and various trainings at GRPD.
- Working on appeal for property tax exemption.
- Had a successful poker event! Thank you to those who volunteered. It was great to see neighbors make connections (networking!) with their counterparts each day.
- We were recognized at Coit Creative Arts Academy's SOAR awards for participation in the Parent Teacher Community Council.
- Next event with Creston Plaza, Clancy St (TOW), etc will be a Father's Day brunch June 16 from 10-11:30 am. Also talking about long term plan for building.
- We got to meet neighbors at Movies on Monroe June 8.
- We have booklets for new neighbors – take some to share!

Neighborhood News:

- DGRI should have installed the trial protected bike lane on Division by the meeting.
- The River's Edge apartments and Linear restaurant on Monroe have been completed.
- Route 19 (the Michigan Street bus) will be free starting August 27th.

City Policy:

- A Medical Marijuana ordinance has been proposed to the planning commission to get in front of the legalization ballot measure. It uses distance requirements to limit to 30 or 70 something facilities in the City, depending on which measurement is selected.