

Neighbors of Belknap Lookout Board Meeting

Tuesday, August 14, 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. DGRI Presentation on Downtown Neighbor Network – Annamarie Bueller
3. Approval of June minutes and July financials
4. Committee updates
5. Old Business:
6. New Business:
 - a. Next PILOT Proposal
 - b. Johnson Center session for September/Board recruitment
 - c. Directors and Officers Insurance
7. Miscellaneous & Public Comment:
 - a. Message center
 - b. Booklets
8. Adjournment

2018 Schedule:

Knitting continues first and third Saturdays - feel free to join us at 700 Clancy at 10 am.

TBD - Neighborhood Clean Up, Harvest Celebrations.

Please try to attend a HousingNOW feedback session later this week, hosted by WMCAT for the City of Grand Rapids regarding the 4 zoning proposals (density bonus, ADUs, 2-4 units, row houses):

Wednesday August 15 - 6-8:30 pm at the Revel Center (1535 Monroe Ave NW)

Thursday August 16 - 6-8:30 pm at the Kroc Center (2500 S Division)

Saturday August 18 - 12-2:30 pm at Neland CRC (940 Neland Ave SE)

NOBL events:

Aug 19 – tree trimming, 1-3 pm College Ave between Cedar and Barnett

Aug 26 – tree trimming, 1-3 pm Livingston Ave exact location TBD

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 license #M97250

Sign up for shifts at www.SignUpGenius.com/go/904044DA5AC2FA31-sell2

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	Rob Kennedy	Loretta Klimaszewski
	Barbara LaBeau	Todd Leinberger	Loren Sturuss
	Jonathan Swets		
Board Members Absent:	Jill Gonzalez	Steve Faas	
Staff Present:	Elianna Bootzin		
Guests Present:	Rick DeVries	Lisa Haynes	Rob Montroy
	Josh Owens	Chad Patton	Stacy Stout
	Chris Swank	Pat Waring	

1. Call to order - The meeting was called to order at 6:31 pm.
2. Presentations
 - a. NLA: Stacy Stout presented Neighborhood Leadership Academy completion certificates to Barbara LaBeau and Elianna Bootzin. Elianna acknowledged Brian Bremer's completion of the Citizen Planner class.
 - b. Hastings Connector: Rick DeVries opened with the overload of the College and Michigan intersection. Both the revised Ottawa interchange and the proposed connector, targeted for completion May 2021, reduce traffic at that intersection. First Hastings will be resurfaced from Fairview to Lafayette or Prospect. The following season it will be finished with federal and/or state grants. Rick shared a revised T-intersection for Sinclair and the new portion of Hastings which is planned to have a westbound right of way. Rick sought input on extending Trowbridge as well. General questions included impact on neighborhood, for which an afternoon exit is expected. Rick will send the traffic study. Traffic must reach a certain level at the new Hastings/College intersection to add a signal. The group was uncertain of the long term future of the industrial area. The grant will include the trail, Hastings, and Belknap hill. Over time we expect a signal a Hastings and Lafayette. We would like to see more public space south of Hastings, which may be possible with federal approval to move the fence. Trees are more likely. GVSU representatives also floated the idea of opening up block five for commercial development. They would sell the land, which would then re-enter the tax base. The ASP calls for neighborhood transitional which does include commercial. Two positions are shown in the GVSU master plan. We'll share comments at the June 25 work group meeting for grant preparation, authorization at the July 10 Commission meeting, and submission July 19. The board was reminded of the July 19 open house at 500 Lafayette.
 - c. Residential Permit Parking: Josh reviewed the previous process – application, parking counts (around 8 am, noon, and 5 pm, Mondays through Fridays), found >75% occupancy and 3 continuous streets (with the existing zone). Next steps are a ballot, MobileGR Commission and City Commission. The process will likely change, too – automating parking studies, going from MobileGR to a hearing at City Commission before adoption at City Commission. The MobileGR department plans to scan Lafayette

this fall. New features include the ability to shift a permit from car to car, make caregiver permits the same as residential, and remove the guest limit.

3. The Minutes and Financials were approved.
4. Committee updates:
 - a. Development – Coit/Modderman is on pause. Vic expects to move on the L&L project in December; has not been to the City yet. There was an inquiry about dealing with cars in the yard, which can be reported to 311. Prospect – architects bought another home, it will be 60 days before drawing. Timeline started April? Coit Square was tabled at Brownfield.
 - b. Other: Dean is interested in lights on the stairs. Mark Miller moved from Nederveld to DGRI. GFS announced for Diamond Place. The garden has been planted. We will set a bylaws committee meeting. Chris will ask Max about progress on housing for the north end of the 500 block of Lafayette.
5. CDBG: Elianna read the motion to accept our CDBG allocation from the City.
6. Time Capsule: Elianna will provide some publications to GVSU for the time capsule.
7. Public comment: Chad is running for the school board. There is a new Michigan law that all current 1st graders must pass test to go to 4th grade. We should encourage reading at home, helping parents. Social studies curriculum changes do not look good. Curb appeal, we will wait to recruit new participants until after the Father's Day event at Clancy Street Ministries. We will only complete one NMF project at a time. Free yoga is coming to Lookout Park. July's meeting will be replaced by the bylaws committee meeting. There was a comment about cleaning up the stairs.
8. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 pm.

Meeting Information

DGRI Presentation on Downtown Neighbor Network – Annamarie Bueller

DGRI has been in the process of convening a Downtown Neighbor Network, touching base regularly with adjacent neighborhoods, envisioning an identity-based rather than geographic boundary, with most suitability for neighbors who live in high rises. They hope to take a collaborative role in communication and projects like the Belknap Hill.

Committees: Development: 719 Prospect has not started the clock yet but all conditions discussed are included; we may get an update in the next couple of months. GVSU completed the lot lease with Third Coast's subsidiary for the north end of the 500 block of Lafayette; LIHTEC credits will be sought this fall. **Bylaws:** The bylaws committee met, made some revisions and identified new clauses to add. It will meet once more before distributing the document in September and seeking approval in October so that the poll tax will no longer be in effect in time for the November board elections.

Next PILOT Proposal: Barbara, Loretta, Jonathan and Elianna met, with neighbor Tui attending. We will spend down many of the remaining project categories from the previous allocation, with residual funds carrying over to the next year. We would like to request disbursement of about half the funds for communication (~\$1,000), plants (amount TBD), installing water for the community garden, dog poop signs and bags for Highland Park, and events (~\$4,000 for block parties and for National Night Out at both Coit and Highland Parks). Elianna is seeking quotes for the dog poop signs/bags and water installation. We would like to request that the other half (~\$10,500) be allocated to the Parks Department to increase their budget for renovating Lookout Park.

Johnson Center session for September/Board recruitment: As a follow up to our participation in the Neighborhood Leadership Academy, Matthew Downey from the Johnson Center for Philanthropy will join us for the September board meeting. He will facilitate a two-hour session with us and any prospective board members on board roles, structures, and responsibilities; this would be a participative and interactive session to articulate what your role is and what structure would lend itself to achieving NOBL's goals. Todd, Barbara and Loretta's terms are up this year; Todd and Loretta can both run for re-election if they so choose. We will need at least one strong new candidate and should brainstorm, evaluate and assign who will invite candidate(s) to to that session (and supper/orientation to NOBL's goals the hour before?).

Directors and Officers Insurance: Our insurance carrier got a quote of \$947 for D&O coverage. I think this expense is still a bit out of reach for us, but encouraging to come back to in a year or two given our continued involvement in land use issues.

Message center: It's time to continue to improve our communication with NLA implementation funds. Outdoor message board options range from small/cheap (\$16 for one sheet of paper to \$69 for 36"x24" for midrange materials to \$125 for 24"x18"):



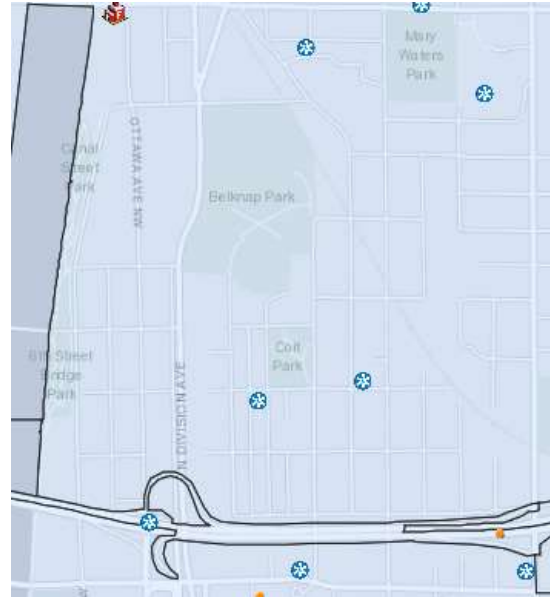
Booklets: Former board member Pete Stiel made beautiful new "Welcome to Belknap" booklets for us this spring. He handled solicitation, layout, printing, and initial distribution. Neighbors and businesses love them, and we still have plenty to share.

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 begun distributing crime alert flyers in response to the five most common crimes that take place in the neighborhood. Samples are available. We held a very successful National Night Out – many thanks to those who attended and volunteered! Our choice of using Sloppy Joe's Snack Shack for prepared food was fortuitous – the health department cracked down on neighborhoods this year requiring temporary food establishment permits for hot dogs.

Development:

- Permit is in for new home at 14 Trowbridge.
- The Gateway has requested some of its approved brownfield reimbursement: https://grandrapidscitymi.ig2.com/Citizens/detail_meeting.aspx?ID=4750

Updates on Old Business

- HousingNOW – WMCAT sessions are listed in the schedule on the front page.
- Homeless Encampment – Terry continues to report on issues along the tracks.

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	-	244				250
FB	126	137	145	-	162	-	185				230
ND	224	233	236	-	246	-	257				330
Pd M	70	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	70

Complete current projects:

- Cats – our traps have arrived; Terry wants to start trapping; funds will roll to next cycle
- Clear Vegetation – completed blocks SW of office & first group day; join us Sundays!
- Communications – will use up w/ announcement of annual meeting (design in Sept)
- Curb Appeal – gave several cards for Clancy St Ministries lot, one left for Mr. Beeny
- Litter Reduction – will do next series in the fall, spend down mostly on trash bags
- Mobility – expecting to focus on traffic calming; funds will roll to next cycle
- Trail Cams – researching additional options before completing purchase
- Trash Cans – cans that appeared are for us, City is installing more, and we are ready to apply to place the rest. We will be supplying caretakers with lots of bags.

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.

Other updates:

- We have a hearing date for our property tax exemption appeal (Oct).
- City's revised DASH north route/schedule will launch Aug 27 with free Route 19 (MI St).
- The City and MDOT are resurfacing the part of Newberry that is in Monroe North.
- Updated riverfront concepts shared with neighborhoods at a City meeting:

