

# Neighbors of Belknap Lookout Board Meeting

Tuesday, September 11, 2017

GVSU's Finkelstein Hall, 500 Lafayette Room 351

Enter from the southwest corner of the building at Lafayette and Hastings  
(double doors by parking lot are for employees only).

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.

**Public Space Goals:** Improving access down Belknap hill (design DDA budget FY2020); Hastings Connector & Linear Park (implementation City of Grand Rapids summer 2019 & 2020); Better Pedestrian Connections (ex North Quarter CID interested in intersection of Plainfield/Leonard).

**Add'l Priorities:** Social Connections; Active in the Neighborhood; Voices Heard in Local Gov't.

1. Call to order and additions to agenda
2. Approval of August minutes and financials
3. Committee updates:
  - a. Bylaws – first look, discuss appointment rules; vote will be in October
4. Old Business:
  - a. Replacement Board Members & Secretary
  - b. Next PILOT Proposal
  - c. HousingNOW
5. New Business:
  - a. Annual Meeting
  - b. Smoke-free and tobacco-free parks
  - c. HUD report
6. Miscellaneous & Public Comment
7. Adjournment

We will try to keep tonight's meeting short to allow anyone who wishes to attend the Residential Permit Parking Zone Expansion hearing at City Hall (300 Monroe NW) at 7 pm.

2018 Schedule:

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

TBD - Neighborhood Clean Up

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](http://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, August 14, 2017

Board Members Present:	Rob Kennedy	Loretta Klimaszewski	Barbara LaBeau
	Loren Sturrus	Jonathan Swets	
Board Members Absent:	Brian Bremer	Jill Gonzalez	Todd Leinberger
Staff Present:	Elianna Bootzin		
Guests Present:	Terry Morris	Chris Swank	

1. Call to order - The meeting was called to order at 6:33 pm. The Board received Steve Faas' resignation.
2. Presentations
  - a. DGRI's Downtown Neighbor Network – Annamarie Bueller: Annamarie started with an overview of the 5 year old DGRI, which is an umbrella organization that administers the DDA, DID, and TIFA tax payment entities dealing with infrastructure and events. She connects with businesses and residents, less with workforce and property owners. Time Kelly is the new CEO who headed up the GR Forward process. Loren pointed out that Lafayette is left out by various economic development resource pools. The Downtown Neighbor Network will have a resident focus, and Annamarie shared both process and next steps. They formed a steering committee (including Heartside) facilitated by Steve Faber. They conducted a survey with over 300 respondents. They also updated neighboring organizations. DGRI will be a home for the 2 year Neighbor Network pilot. Heartside will take the role of the neighborhood association. DNN will be more of an affinity group for those who feel like downtown residents. It will appeal most to those living in high density properties. They expect to take a team/collaborative approach major infrastructure projects on borders with near neighborhoods, for instance offering tabling at events open to the public etc. The DNN will advise all 6 DGRI committee. They expect to seat a board by the end of the year. Their value is connection. They will not be between us and the city. They will not commit us to specific positions or particular implementation. They may even have differences between DNN and DGRI. They will make sure not to poach other organizations' existing board members. They've approached West Grand, Monroe North, John Ball, Heritage Hill, etc.
3. The Minutes and Financials were approved. The garden received \$140 of which \$96 has been spent.
4. Committee updates:
  - a. Loren attended the dedication for 500 Lafayette. Commissioner Jones will be sending a copy of his speech.
  - b. The bylaws revision has started. Elianna will send out a copy with tracked changes.
  - c. The garden will have a harvest event on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday in September. Amanda's leaving. There will be a spaghetti squash cookoff.

5. **Board Recruitment:** In addition to Steve’s resignation, we will replace Jill (absence policy) in the near term. Elianna will invite Sondra and the next person from the election. For the three seats open in November, Barb will check with Rob Montroy, architect James Lewis. Elianna will check that Todd plans to run again and also contact Mary Bueche. Loretta will consider running. Loren will count the ballots. Annamarie recommended Jan Lehman.
6. **Session with Johnson Center:** Barb will be absent next month. Chris offered a room at 500 Lafayette, the back corner of the third floor, probably room 343.
7. The group selected the third message board option. Chris thanked those who attended events at 500 Lafayette. Loretta commented that unionized labor should be used for cleaning. We noted that National Night Out attendance was up, and attributed it to the MLive article. Elianna shared that the Health Department contacted all the neighborhoods this year – using Sloppy Joe’s instead of cooking our own hot dogs was the right choice! Terry shared a number of concerns including syringes found and other drug use at/near McDonald’s. Elianna will follow up with Julie at the GRPD, sharing that JP’s primary assignment is now Creston. We will trim trees near Highland Park as well. Follow ups with Parks and McDonald’s were recommended as well. Elianna will make sure Terry is on the email list.
8. **Adjournment –** The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 pm.

## Meeting Information

**Bylaws –** The revised bylaws (with tracked changes) are provided as a separate document. There is a currently a question of whether to keep the old language about appointing people until the next election, or the new language about filling the remainder of the term. In our current situation, under the old language, we would need to elect a majority of the board in November, so allowing the board to appoint committed individuals to fill the remainder of terms could be prudent. Let’s discuss and decide on this issue and any other questions. The Board will be voting to adopt the new bylaws in October so that the poll tax is gone before the November election.

**Board Replacements & Secretary –** Going back to the last election, Sondra is occupied with other commitments. Miriam is still considering. Dean accepts (vote). We need a Secretary.

**Next PILOT Proposal –** to be brought to GVSU work group Sept 25; Land Bank (now Innovalab) will not let us install water as they still could sell it as a buildable lot and don’t want to waste \$.

Communication	\$ 998.93
Planting	\$ 3,066.83
Rain barrels for Community Garden	\$ 500.00
Events	\$ 2,000.00
Transfer to Parks: dog poop signs/bags at Highland	\$ 600.00
Transfer to Parks: Lookout Park renovation budget	<u>\$ 11,000.00</u>
	\$ 18,165.76

**HousingNOW** – the neighborhood associations were largely disappointed with the WMCAT engagements around the HousingNOW zoning proposals. We can reissue the letter we sent to our commissioners last spring to the full commission for public record.

**Annual Meeting** – We should include food this year with NLA completion funds. Recommending pizza from Sloppy Joe’s. Likely agenda would be dinner at 6:30 pm and 50 minute program at 7:00 pm:

1. Welcome (5 min)
2. Brief Statements from NOBL Board Candidates/Vote for 3 Open Seats (10 min)
3. Guest Presentation: Opportunities for Involvement at Coit School – Abby Clayton, KSSN (10 min)
4. Guest Presentation: Hastings Connection – TBD, City of Grand Rapids (10 min)
5. Neighborhood Update: GVSU Campus – GVSU Community Relations Director Pat Waring (5 min)
6. Mini-awards ceremony for engaged neighbors and curb appeal contest winner (5 min)
7. Announcement of New Board Members (5 min)

We should all be out the door by 8 pm!

**Smoke-free and tobacco-free parks** – The Health Department has permission from Parks & Rec and its advisory board to install smoke-free/tobacco-free park signs with neighborhood approval. Is that something the board would like to endorse and/or bring to the neighborhood in November?

**HUD Report** - Comments on Housing and Community Development program performance and needs - including NOBL's Public Safety and Leadership Development programs – will be accepted through September 14 to Community Development Department at City Hall Suite 460. Full report is at <https://belknaplookout.us15.list-manage.com/track/click?u=69fc2104990e36147b9cec3e9&id=d64de10e08&e=5d66bf074f>. Do we want to send a letter?

### Regular Report Contents:

Crime (last four weeks) from [www.crimemapping.com](http://www.crimemapping.com)



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



**Public Safety:** Crime alert flyers continue. We are also helping the fire department with their list of businesses that need self-inspections. Neighbors have raised some concerns about shots fired (in the air, no one was hurt, but no leads) and a party turning into a disturbance (one attendee was arrested for disorderly conduct) on the 500 block of Livingston last weekend. We've also had several robberies recently & will providing neighborhood-wide prevention tips.

**Development:**

- There will be a development committee meeting with Modderman later this week.

**Updates on Old Business**

- Homeless Encampment – Trimmed brush again; Terry continues to clean; sending McDonald’s letter as Terry recommended re: drug use in bathrooms.

**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	251			<del>250</del>
FB	126	137	145	-	162	-	185	187			230
ND	224	233	236	-	246	-	257	261			330
Pd M	70	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		70

Complete current projects:

- Cats – low level of ongoing activity; will roll to next cycle
- Clear Vegetation – will have trimmed everywhere south of train tracks by Friday
- Communications – will start design this week, get to printer by end of month
- Curb Appeal – need to set time for Loren and Barb to judge; have last \$100 for winner
- Litter Reduction – should start spend down late this month; clean ups in October
- Mobility – no immediate action forthcoming; funds will roll to next cycle
- Trail Cams – bought and delivered cameras to residents for crime prevention
- Trash Cans – submitted encroachment permit, sending additional info

**Other updates:**

- Breakaway Festival seemed to go well; low number of complaints, collecting feedback.
- Continued involvement with North End Wellness Coalition; will likely miss Oct to attend Crime Prevention Association of Michigan session on Community Policing.
- GROW Belknap community potluck at Clancy St Ministries building (940 Clancy) is Tuesday September 25 at 6:30 pm – please try to attend to meet neighbors & partners!