



Neighbors Of Belknap Lookout Annual Report 2018

ABOUT US: Neighbors of Belknap Lookout was organized in the late 1970s under ACORN and incorporated in 1980 to access CDBG funds via the City of Grand Rapids' Community Development Department to deal with crime and blight. Neighborhood conditions have improved tremendously since then; neighbors more often deal with land use issues, offering input to Commissions in relation to the 2009 Area Specific Plan. NOBL's boundaries are Michigan, College, Leonard and the Grand River.

THIS YEAR, THE BOARD CLARIFIED WHAT WE WANT TO ACCOMPLISH IN 2018-2021.

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

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

OUR GOALS: Three major public space goals, for which we depend on larger entities like the City of Grand Rapids and Downtown Grand Rapids Inc to complete, are a better way down Belknap hill (design work in DGRI budget for FY2020), the Hastings Connector (the City will construct in 2019 and 2020 to prepare for the GVSU/Spectrum parking ramp on Michigan St), and improved pedestrian access to Michigan Street and the Creston Business District (impacted by MobileGR's proposed durable crosswalks and adding signs in the median). NOBL can participate through advocacy, engagement, and fundraising.



Left, Belknap hill (Fairview-Division) in Michigan Street Corridor Plan. Above, Hastings Connector in GVSU Master Plan.

Themes for these and other neighborhood activities are creating physical and social connections, being active in the neighborhood, and being heard in local government.

WE TRULY APPRECIATE THE SUPPORT OF THE NEIGHBORS WHO HELPED US BUY A NEW FURNACE FOR OUR OFFICE AND MINISPLIT FOR THE UPSTAIRS APARTMENT LAST FALL.

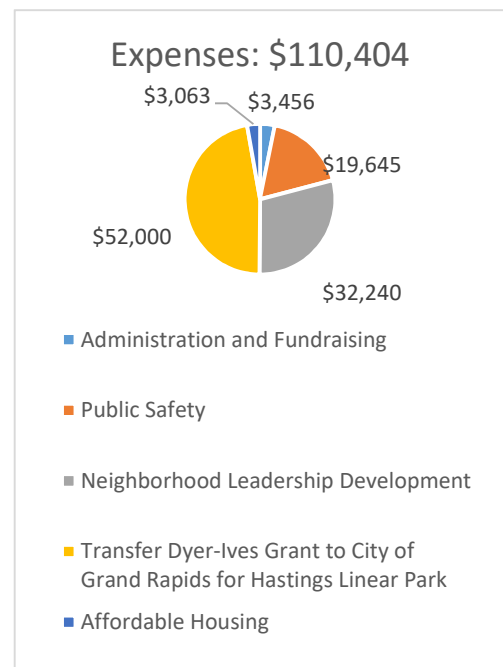
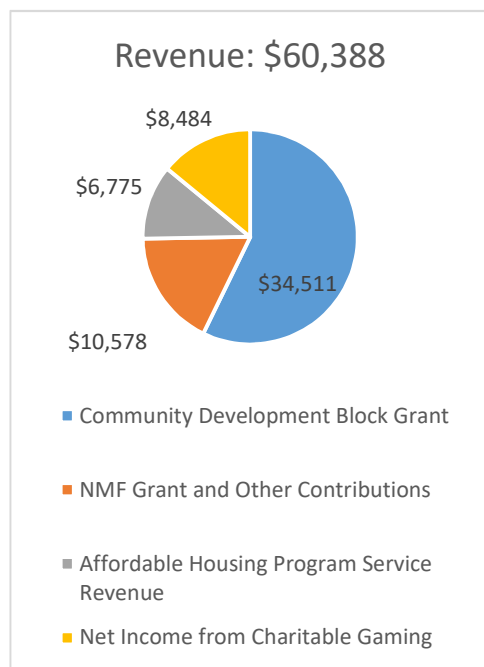
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NEIGHBORHOOD ACTIVITIES: We connected with neighbors at several standard events: Dumpster Day, National Night Out (with special Coit Park Rededication), and Neighborhood Clean Up, giving neighbors a chance to dispose of large trash items free of charge, meet their public safety workers in a fun setting, and work together to remove litter from the neighborhood, respectively. We tried hosting a twice a month knitting club and were also able to hold a series of block parties over the summer with support from the City of Grand Rapids Neighborhood Match Fund. Volunteers helped clear tree limbs blocking sidewalks in the neighborhood and planted flowering bulbs at the top of the Bradford stairs.



CONSTRUCTION IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD: Our Development Committee and/or Board of Directors took positions on the following projects: Parking Lot at 1136 Plainfield, Belknap Place (mixed income housing requested by the neighborhood on Trowbridge across from Coit Church), and Coit Square (600 block of Coit across from Coit School). Together with our sister associations across the City, we were able to postpone and modify the City of Grand Rapids' proposed HousingNOW zoning changes.

OUR FINANCES:



Assets: General Operating Funds: \$16,665; Special Project Funds: \$21,687; Building Value: \$113,370.

Liabilities: Minisplit Loan and Accrued Payroll Taxes: \$11,626. **Net Assets, or Equity:** \$142,676.

2018 Board Members: Loren Sturrus (Chair & Secretary), Todd Leinberger (Vice Chair), Rob Kennedy (Treasurer), Brian Bremer, Barbara LaBeau, Loretta Klimaszewski, Dean Rosendall, Johnathan Swets.