

Neighbors of Belknap Lookout Board Meeting

Tuesday, January 8, 2018
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.

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 (MobileGR planning durable crosswalk and “stop for pedestrian” signs).

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

1. Call to order and additions to agenda
2. Presentation – CDBG – Johanna Schulte, City of Grand Rapids
3. Approval of January minutes and financials (Motion)
4. Administration/Policy
 - a. Board Meeting Options – Format, Location, Food, etc.
 - b. Approve Application for Continued CDBG Funding (Motion)
5. Strategy
 - a. View/Adjust Work Plan
6. Budget
 - a. Approve PILOT Allocation Request and Mobility Project Plan (Motion)
7. Miscellaneous & Public Comment
8. Adjournment

2019 Board Meeting Schedule, 6:30 pm at 700 Clancy Ave NE:

March 12 (Trying new location at Newberry Common House)
April 9
May 14
June 11
~~July 9 (off)~~
August 13
September 10
October 8
November 12 (Annual Meeting at Coit Creative Arts Academy)
December 10 (Old board/new board potluck)

Please watch the mass emails to the neighborhood for additional social event announcements. We’re adding an optional “Eat – and Drink – Local” series on board meeting nights after we adjourn. Tonight we’ll be headed to ~~JD Reardon's (940 Monroe NW)~~ Linear (1001 Monroe) after the meeting.

Neighbors of Belknap Lookout Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 8, 2019

Board Members Present:	Rob Kennedy	Loretta Klimaszewski	Dan Miller
	Loren Sturrus	Jonathan Swets	
Board Members Absent:	Robin Benton	Brian Bremer	
	Todd Leinberger	Dean Rosendall	
Staff Present:	Elianna Bootzin		
Guests Present:	Dave Prouty	Chris Swank	Milinda Ysasi

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:31 pm.
2. The minutes and financials were reviewed.
3. The board chose to keep the same officers (Loren Sturrus as Chair, Todd Leinberger as Vice Chair, and Rob Kennedy as Treasurer) and split secretarial duties off to Dan Miller. All four, as well as Executive Director Elianna Bootzin will be authorized signatories on our bank accounts. It was recommended to keep Barbara LaBeau involved in GVSU PILOT committee discussions.
4. Elianna explained the new conflict of interest policy; those present signed the document as written while noting that the group is open to additional amendments if brought forward.
5. With 3 guests present in the middle of the meeting, the group opted to skip the executive session. If anyone has comments on Elianna's performance in 2018, please direct them to Loren.
6. In lieu of goals, primary discussion points were the location of and having food at board meetings. Major locations to consider trying are the Clancy St Ministries building, Finkelstein Hall, Belknap Commons and Newberry Common House. We will try Newberry in March and discuss both aspects in more detail next month. Elianna noted she would like to try to make some kind of annual appeal in 2019. Board members will take some time after the meeting to write potential goal steps.
7. Milinda introduced herself as the Executive Director at the SOURCE. She is running for Ruth Kelly's term limited seat on City Commission.
8. The 2019 budget was approved with the \$270.70 addition to utilities to help our tenant with increased heating costs. We will review the utility situation when they move out.
9. Loretta raised questions about plating company regulations in regards to PFAS. Elianna will contact the MDEQ. Chris shared that Belknap Place passed Planning Commission.
10. The meeting was adjourned at 7:28 pm.

Meeting Information

1. CDBG – NOBL actually incorporated in 1980 in order to be able to affiliate with the City of Grand Rapids and receive Community Development Block Grant dollars originating from the Federal Housing and Urban Development department to address the crime and blight in the neighborhood through public safety and neighborhood leadership development dollars respectively. Johanna will provide an overview of the program, potentially discussing obligations and restrictions of participation. This program regularly ends up on the Congressional chopping block, so attention is typically needed each funding cycle. In addition, eligibility is based on having a majority low income population. We may lose the program after a decennial census – more on that later.

2. Board Meeting Format Options: The focus here is how to set ourselves up for success to have deeper conversations and be sure we reach conclusions. For the last couple of meetings, I have adopted an organizing convention based on the categories Matthew Downey talked about at last winter's Neighborhood Leadership Academy: Vision, Strategy, Budget, and Policy. I think he also mentioned "what's needed, what's done, how can the board support". It's similarly possible to organize by the goal we are talking about (in line with which I have lumped several of the strategy/budget/policy items into a fourth "organizational sustainability" goal in the work plan we will cover soon).

His replacement recommends a slightly different approach: handling agenda, minutes, and accepting committee reports altogether in a consent agenda (and clarified to our previous question that if anything requires discussion it is removed from the consent and considered separately); having an education section to talk about mission, job/role, or any other pertinent information about the organization and its programs; governance/action where all other motions are handled, always including financials as she feels they should be discussed (probably prudent!); strategy discussion; roundtable.

As raised last month, we should also talk about location and food. We agreed to try Newberry in March, and Dan has reserved the room. Other options mentioned then were Clancy St Ministries building, Finkelstein Hall, and Belknap Commons. What other spaces could we consider, and do we want to rule any out? When do we want to try particular options? What food do we want to include at the meetings and who will bring/order it? (Event dollars are in our GVSU PILOT request below; a modest amount could be used for this purpose. We likely to get the check in April at the earliest.)

3. Approve Application for Continued CDBG Funding – This is a standard approval needed to complete our CDBG funding application. A motion is required.
4. View/Adjust Work Plan – See 2 page chart, attached. Is it realistic? Is there anything that we want to move, add, delete, amend? Is there a piece that you want to help with?
5. Approve PILOT allocation request and Mobility project plan - The major change from the draft presented last fall: with the Land Bank shutting down we can buy the community garden from them at \$1 per square foot, or \$5650, and per City staff we can use PILOT funds. Maybe NOBL can cover closing costs? New line item mostly comes out of parks.

I would also propose adjusting the label on "planting" to "beautification" to add the possibility of a little free library building workshop with friends of GR parks; similarly Loretta does not want to be locked into rain barrels (and in fact has some), so that becomes "durable supplies". Communications prices have increased slightly.

For the \$4000 of mobility money set aside from our first allocation, I propose splitting in half for traffic calming on/near Fairview which several neighbors would like to see, and repairing stairs and railings at individual homes, which will help with CDBG metrics.

An official motion would be best to bring the new allocation to the GVSU work group:

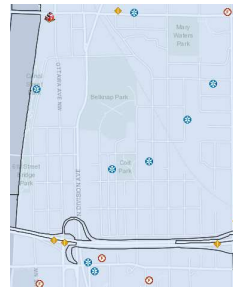
Communication	\$ 1,010.96
Beautification (planting, little free libraries, etc)	\$ 3,004.80
Purchase of Community Garden	\$ 5,650.00
Durable Supplies for Community Garden	\$ 500.00
Events	\$ 1,400.00
Transfer to Parks: dog poop signs/bags at Highland	\$ 600.00
Transfer to Parks: Lookout Park/Belknap/Reservoir renovation budget	\$ <u>6,000.00</u>
	\$ 18,165.76

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 continue to share public safety flyers.

Development - The Development Committee will see a new CopperRock project this month. The City will hold two sessions on the Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) approval process Wed 2/13: 12:30-1:30 pm (2007-2009 S Division) and 6-7 pm (1120 Monroe NW), both with food. Registering with cmagaluk@grcity.us is recommended. ADUs could be approved by staff in certain cases but retain the option for a public hearing to invite neighbor comments.

Updates on Old Business - No further updates on 712 North, office signage, HousingNOW or lighting on stairs. Some additional complaints on the homeless encampment. MDEQ explained regulations for air quality and hazardous waste; no info on PFAS here because it's not specifically regulated but usually used with chrome plating (this is zinc) and ends up in a sludge with other properly disposed of hazardous waste. Both types of inspections in 2017 were in compliance. Elianna has some additional details if desired and contacts for follow up questions.

Other NOBL updates/use of staff time - Art Night at Coit went very well! NEWC trail is taking longer than expected. Elianna is starting to prep for a Summit presentation on the GVSU tenant relocation protocol (with City staff covering similar proposal for future Brownfield projects).

Other area news: 221 Trowbridge requested approval of reimbursements at the 1/16 Brownfield meeting. Zoko has an application in with the City Planning Dept to host a food truck event. MobileGR will be giving an update on potential Michigan St road diet at the 2/13 Michigan Street CID meeting (8:30 am at Grand Coney). Elianna will try to attend.