**Neighbors of Belknap Lookout Board Meeting**

**Tuesday, August 13, 2019**

**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. Presentations
   1. Proposed Marijuana Business at 49 Coldbrook NE – Ankur Rungta
   2. 3rd Congressional District Candidate, 2020 – Doug Booth
   3. Bradford & Lafayette – Bazzani
   4. GVSU – Pat Waring
3. Approval of July Financials (Motion)
4. Sign on to letter from Angel re: parking on rebuilt Hastings (Motion)
5. Miscellaneous & Public Comment
6. Adjournment

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

September 10

October 8

November 12 (Annual Meeting at Coit Creative Arts Academy)

December 10 (Old board/new board potluck)

City leaders,

We hope that your summer has been enjoyable thus far. Here in Belknap lookout its been rough with all of the almost endless construction, parks and street improvements. But, we understand that when these projects are complete our neighborhood and city will be better off. For that, for the most part we are grateful.

The exception is a piece that no one in NOBL seems to have been made aware of, or asked to participate in discussions regarding the removal of viable and important parking spaces on Hastings From Coit to Clancy in particular. This is a very big departure from what was existing and apparently will no longer be.

We believe those nine or so parking spaces that have now been permanently removed were intrinsically valuable and important to NOBL for a number of reasons.

With traffic and safety being more critical in our neighborhood now more than ever and parking at an ever so premium, the loss of those spaces from a parking perspective is a detriment, not a benefit in our opinion. In addition the buffer those spaces created spoke to a more community type setting. This departure seems to speak to a different attitude towards what Hastings is and should be. An attitude we are not privy too. But, the greatest issue is that of the businesses that are on hastings and those that will eventually occupy those spaces. The removal of those spaces does not help the long tern viability of that corridor and it diminishes it greatly for a number of reasons. The removal of the spaces does not at all seem consistent with city goals for walkability, pedestrian safety and or how similar corridors would have or would be handled. So it begs the question of why and how.

1. We like to know why was this decision made without our input ?
2. We like to know why this decision was made ? And what is the supporting evidence that lead to this decision?
3. We like to know how this decision was made?
4. We like to know who was part of this decision making process ? The city? Traffic and safety? Gvsu? Were minutes kept?
5. We would like an explanation as to the purpose of this change and how this will be a positive to the community and businesses in that corridor and not a negative ?

Respectfully submitted by Angel Gonzalez on behalf of NOBL (and whoever else) Dtn, Rowster and whoever else you can think of.

(Todd recommends pressing further and asking for the parking to be re-installed.)