

Neighbors Of Belknap Lookout Annual Report 2020

ABOUT US: Neighbors of Belknap Lookout was organized in the late 1970s under ACORN and incorporated in 1980 to deal with crime and blight using CDBG funds via the City of Grand Rapids. Neighborhood conditions have improved tremendously since then, but NOBL's work to advocate for and enhance the quality of life in the Belknap community continues. Current focuses include helping neighbors to address land use issues in relation to the 2009 Area Specific Plan, strengthening community engagement with the process of developing public spaces, and helping more residents become active in the neighborhood and local government. NOBL's boundaries are Michigan, College, Leonard and the Grand River. Learn more at www.belknaplookout.org.

OUR GOALS FOR THE NEIGHBORHOOD'S PUBLIC SPACES CONTINUE TO INCLUDE:

A better way down Belknap hill: We remain in contact with the Downtown Development Authority which has design work budgeted for their fiscal year, July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021.

The Hastings Connector: Reconstruction of the east side of Hastings by the City took place this year.





Better pedestrian connections: MobileGR continued adding durable crosswalks.

CONTACT: 700 Clancy Ave NE | Grand Rapids, MI 49503 | 616-454-8413 | belknaplookout.org

NEIGHBORHOOD ACTIVITIES: COVID put an interesting twist on our usual plans. We switched our 40th Anniversary Open House to digital at the last minute – videos still available on the Facebook event. Using donations of homemade masks plus sanitizer from the L&L Market, we put together 100 public health kits for neighbors, and followed up with CDBG-funded neighborhood leadership kits so folks could chalk their walks and decorate their windows while Staying Home and Staying Safe. We still snuck in a little masked, distanced litter and vegetation clean up in problem spots around the neighborhood,

and held Dumpster Day in the fall at East Leonard Elementary. Neighbors on the east side of the neighborhood still cultivated a Collaborative Garden at 762 North, even if they didn't get to see each other while tending their individual plots. We also provided a location for people to fill out their Census and engaged neighbors in a review of the City's 2002 Master Plan in preparation for the next one. Plus, neighbors engaged in GVSU PILOT-funded projects addressing feral cats and trash cans at bus stops.





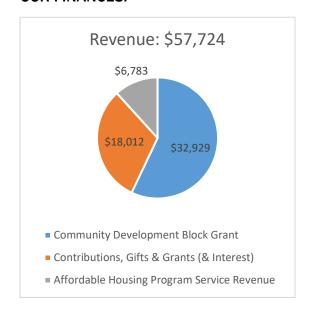








CONSTRUCTION IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD: Our Development Committee and/or Board of Directors took positions on the following: 614 Fairview, 637 Coit, Clancy Lofts, 242 Cedar, 225 Hastings, 608 Coit. **OUR FINANCES:**





Assets: General Operating Funds: \$18,441; Special Project Funds: \$34,970; Building Value: \$116,606. **Liabilities**: Minisplit Loan and Accrued Payroll Taxes: \$4,936. **Net Assets, or Equity**: \$165,072.

2020 Board Members: Loren Sturrus (Chair), Loretta Klimaszewski (Vice Chair), Dan Miller (Secretary), Dean Rosendall (Treasurer), Robin Benton, Brian Bremer, Amy Gautraud, Kara Harrison Gates and Jonathan Swets.