**Neighbors of Belknap Lookout Board Meeting**

**Monday August 9, 2021, 6:30 pm on Zoom:**

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84768261679?pwd=dURQczVTcFIzMCt5Z3FScFh6MkhpZz09](https://www.google.com/url?q=https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84768261679?pwd%3DdURQczVTcFIzMCt5Z3FScFh6MkhpZz09&sa=D&source=calendar&usd=2&usg=AOvVaw00fLWxzNF-azl9__-T74k1)

**Need to connect by phone? Dial by your location**

**+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)**

Meeting ID: 847 6826 1679 Passcode: 192712

**2021-2024 Statements**

**Mission**: To empower residents of the Belknap neighborhood to identify their interests, support their own well-being, and to facilitate community health and prosperity.

**Vision:** A neighbor driven organization, committed to making a deep impact on the major institutions around us and collectively improving our built environment and our neighbors’ quality of life.

**Values: Justice Community Quality of Life Accountable**

**COMMUNITY STANDARDS:**

• When there is a disagreement acknowledge the other’s viewpoint by restating what you believe they are saying.

• Be considerate.

• No attacks.

• Be constructive.

• Assume good intent.

• Check your privilege.

• Step away if you need to

• Bring to the table the point of view of those who are not represented.

• Allow for leaning/be aware of your own triggers.

• Lean in if you tend to speak less, lean back if you tend to speak more.

**Agenda**

* Roll Call
* Last Month’s Minutes
* Talk about each area of the Strategic Plan
* Subcommittees
* Guests
* Miscellaneous

**Meeting Details**

* Roll Call   
    
  Ellie Walborn-Henry (acting chair)  
  Dan Miller (secretary)  
  Amy Gautraud (treasurer)  
  Kara Harrison Gates  
  Loren Sturrus  
    
  New chair? (Need vice by Sept)  
    
  Using 5 Finger Poll until Sociocracy is in place
* Last Month’s Minutes  
    
  **Neighbors of Belknap Lookout Meeting Minutes**

**Monday, June 14, 2021, Zoom Meeting**

**Members Present:** Kara Harrison Gates (Chair) Amy Gautraud   
Loren Sturrus Ellie Walborn-Henry

**Members Absent:** Dan Miller (Secretary)

**Staff Present:** Elianna Bootzin (Executive Director)

**Guests Present:** Chris Swank (GVSU) Karen Ingle (GVSU)

**Roll Call (see above for attendance)**

We reviewed Robin and Ayanfe’s resignations. Kara has the opportunity to pursue an MBA and similarly resigned from the Chairship. Those present were supportive of her remaining on the board during her physical absence. We will include a monthly agenda item regarding a new chair. We will need someone in place by September as Ellie is expecting a baby in November. Elianna will try to meet Sheri, recommended by Robin, tomorrow. Kara may be able to do Wednesday if that doesn’t work. If after an initial conversation she remains interested in joining the board generally, we would like her to come to the July meeting; if we remain interested the executive committee can then vet her, and the board can vote her on in August.

**Last Month’s Minutes**

With Dan’s proxy, the board had quorum to approve last month’s minutes.

**Talk about each area of the Strategic Plan**

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1elIC6rTN1ylrlrCfhs6GLvykmwUM98tfG74S_X2i8XY/edit#gid=0>

We reviewed the Justice items (notes recorded in the spreadsheet linked above).

Regarding committee roles and compensation:

* Elianna explained 1099 contracts.
* Elianna went over current draft duties for 2022 based on the strategic plan.
* We noted that it would be good to provide compensation to board members for non-board activities; we will need additional information on whether that is acceptable legally.
* The Community Development Committee’s role in the overall development project process will be determined after the scorecard is completed.
* We should continue to think about what we want to get out of these relationships, what outside resources we can draw on to create this structure (both academic and neighbor opinion).
* The first getting to know you conversation the Racial Equity committee is planning to hold with individual neighbors should focus on listening.

Ellie also provided some guidance on the social worker piece in Quality of Life for budget preparation purposes: we should build that activity into future grant application based on the relevant content areas. In the meantime we can use the financial stability is public safety justification to retain some amount of control for referrals with a new social worker during our next budget cycle.

We will pick up with Community next time.

**Subcommittees**

All items pertaining to subcommittees were covered in the strategic plan discussion above.

**Guests**

Karen Ingle joined the meeting to seek concurrence on the demolition of 507 Sinclair. With Dan’s proxy and the consent of Loren and Kara who disconnected from the meeting, the board issued this concurrence. Ellie raised the concern that due to the long range nature of the GVSU Campus Master Plan and the threshold for investment in houses there, they are creating blight. We will take time to discuss this issue next meeting.

**Miscellaneous (none)**

**POST MEETING NOTE:**

The 6 month budget was adopted unanimously by email in lieu of a July meeting.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Revenue** |  |
| CDBG | $     17,750 |
| Contributions, Gifts and Grants | $     21,000 |
| Affordable Housing | $       3,600 |
| **Total** | **$     35,300** |
|  |  |
| **Expenses** |  | |
| Wages | $     11,000 | |
| Occupancy | $       5,500 | |
| Contractual Services | $       2,300 | |
| Training | $              - | |
| Neighborhood Improvement | $     15,000 | |
| Other | $       2,000 | |
| **Total** | **$     35,800** | |

Report out on July Music Festival

The Good:

* One neighbor helps clean up the events and gets a decent return from the cans from the event.
* Others noted they liked the music / it was beautiful music / music wasn’t too bad

The Bad:

* Intern Greg found overall complaints were mostly:
  + loud,
  + parking and
  + trash.
* There is no citizen voice in the process.
* “ the only time they will listen is when you burn the city down”
* It shouldn’t be here at all (Could they hold it at the baseball stadium?)
* This was an incredibly disruptive event. The noise level in our area was totally unacceptable. It continued until late on Friday and Saturday nights. Plus we had no advance warning (don't believe what the promoters are saying, none of my neighbors got any advance notice). In the future, please place these LOUD concerts in less populated venues, Rosa Parks Circle or Ab An Awan Park, eg. Daniel Miller, 123 Newberry St NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503.
* Why … in a neighborhood… there’s no other place in Grand Rapids to host this

The Mixed Review:

* A Newberry neighbor provided detailed feedback to the City and her concerns were addressed.
* Some neighbors seemed hesitant to complain.

Plus more comments to come from this weekend.

Particularly worth discussing:

* Additional concern around COVID transmission this year.
* Do note that we intend to seek better benefits for neighborhoods from these kinds of large events later in our strategic plan.
* Talk about each area of the Strategic Plan

Sociocracy Training plans:

* Who has reviewed the Circle Forward packet to date?   
  Key takeaways seem to be finding a solution that is acceptable to everybody and the concept of speaking in rounds (rather than back and forth discussion).
* Some quotes Elianna particularly appreciated from the book the Food Co-op is learning from (*We the People: Consenting to a Deeper Democracy* by John Buck and Sharon Villines):

“Behavior is determined by the prevailing social structure. Unless people are trusted and encouraged to be self-organizing and supportive of each other, they won’t be.”

“Without an aim around which to organize, a system will respond randomly or not at all, and is likely to cease to exist.”

“Dynamic organizations are vigorous and forceful…because they are:

* Prepared to respond to adversity
* Designed to develop and change without causing disruption, and
* Structured coherently to be understood by all their parts.”

“In the technical sciences, all elements of a system work together in the absence of objections. If one part of a system is stressed to the point of breaking down, it sends feedback by slowing down or making a lot of noise. Ultimately it stops functioning: *It objects*. It withdraws its consent and stops working. … Consent, defined as no objections, [becomes] the basis for decision-making. Any member of the organization could signal an adverse effect by objecting.”

“Separate meetings … in which managers, supervisors and workers met as equals to determine the policies that would guide day-to-day operations. … Everyone consented to policies that defined the work process, set aims, defined and assigned roles and responsibilities, and determined how the manager would lead and how they would follow. This design engaged everyone in creating efficient operations that could be adjusted quickly as conditions changed.”

“Create a general circle of members of each specialized circle who would 1) make policies that affected multiple circles and 2) do overall planning. Who would represent circles?

“In electrical engineering, one wire can’t carry information in two directions. …Communication between circles would require two channels. The leader of operations, the “downlink”, would be responsible for carrying information from the organization to the operations unit, and a second, the “uplink”, would represent the operations unit and carry information up the organization. … establish[ing] feedback loops [and]… a coherent governance structure.”

“Endenberg designed a legal structure that made the organization its own owner – a free organization, one that owned itself or for which ownership had no meaning.”

* Elianna and our MSW Intern Greg will meet with Linda Jones from the Food Co-op to design a (series of?) training(s) for our September meeting (and beyond?).

Committee Roles and Neighbor Compensation

Development Process

Item by Item review of Quality of Life at <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1elIC6rTN1ylrlrCfhs6GLvykmwUM98tfG74S_X2i8XY/edit#gid=0>

TABLED: does GVSU create blight? (One tenant does feel we should ask the GVSU Board of Trustees or appropriate decision maker to increase the amount they are willing to invest in their properties.)  
Reference 3 way Memoranda of Understanding between NOBL, GVSU and the City: <http://grandrapidscitymi.iqm2.com/Citizens/FileOpen.aspx?Type=4&ID=2819>

* Subcommittees  
    
  Development: Complete scorecard drafted, 3 amendments needed. Ready to start practice scoring with past projects to determine cutoffs. August meeting includes update on projects.

Racial Equity: Hosting debrief of Decentering Whiteness at the 8/11 meeting. Will try to finalize outreach plans for getting to know neighbors (to feed into recruitment process) as well.

* Guests
* **Map

  Description automatically generated**Miscellaneous  
    
  Would we like the Executive Committee to vet Sheri Munsell for an appointment to the board? We can proceed with a vote in September if their recommendation is positive.

55 National Night Out bags were distributed (the remainder should be able to go to the MNBA picnic).

**Regular Report Contents**

**Public Safety -** [**www.crimemapping.com**](http://www.crimemapping.com) **last 4 weeks (image).**

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| --- |
| **July 28 Brownfield meeting includes**  [Assignment and Assumption of the Development and Reimbursement Agreement for JB Attorney Holdings Clancy 2, LLC Redevelopment Project at 221 Trowbridge Street NE](https://grandrapidscitymi.iqm2.com/Citizens/Detail_LegiFile.aspx?Frame=&MeetingID=6389&MediaPosition=&ID=15703&CssClass=) |

**Union Suites got their LIHTC credits:** [**https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&ved=2ahUKEwjdgsOWk4TyAhUbbc0KHWAYDjkQFjABegQIAxAD&url=https%3A%2F%2Fmibiz.com%2Fsections%2Freal-estate-development%2Fsix-grand-rapids-projects-receive-6-7m-in-low-income-housing-tax-credits&usg=AOvVaw2lfylDiX0nR\_y7Nvi5CTb4**](https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&ved=2ahUKEwjdgsOWk4TyAhUbbc0KHWAYDjkQFjABegQIAxAD&url=https%3A%2F%2Fmibiz.com%2Fsections%2Freal-estate-development%2Fsix-grand-rapids-projects-receive-6-7m-in-low-income-housing-tax-credits&usg=AOvVaw2lfylDiX0nR_y7Nvi5CTb4)