

Little Bohemia Neighborhood Association
Meeting notes, April 2, 2015

Meeting hosted by Jennifer Gehlhar, 295 Sturgis, 7:00 PM

Co-chaired by Lindsay and Mark

Housing Update regarding HSA Properties

We were joined by guest, Becky Errigo from NeighborWorks Home Partners. She shared plans based on feedback from our March meeting for properties 376 Sturgis and 314 Harrison that NeighborWorks Home Partners is developing. The new plans aim to find a design that fits the look of the neighborhood and include a higher pitched roof with a small window and double-hung windows. The neighborhood liked the ideas, so NWHP is going to move ahead in their process: 2 weeks of design, 2 weeks of bidding, 2 months for building permits, and about 5 months construction. The goal is to start work in May and then complete in September or October.

NWHP are also working on the duplex on Goodrich Avenue, and that is on the same timeline as these homes. All of these properties will be for sale on the open market. There will be income requirements and will need to be homesteaded and have a 10 year commitment.

Home Tour Update

The Home Tour is taking place April 25th and 26th. Come out! Invite your neighbors! Little Bohemia is in the guide, and the houses on Forbes and two Schmidt lofts will be on the tour. Tom is working on a flyer about LBNA that will be in the homes. Home Tour Ambassadors are needed. If you would like to volunteer, reach out to Marit Brock at maritbrock@gmail.com.

Stone House Meeting Update

There was a meeting on April 1st at the Fort Road Federation to discuss the potential West 7th Stone house Thematic Heritage Preservation District. It will designate the five stone houses in our neighborhood as historic.

Plan Neighborhood Cleanup Day - Saturday, April 18th

Saturday, April 18th is the city-wide clean up day. We will meet at Pleasant Place at 9am on April 18th to clean up the bike path, Pleasant Place, and areas around Forbes where the homes will be on the Home Tour. Bags and gloves will be provided. If you have a dog pooper scooper, it'd be helpful to bring. Water and granola bars will available as well.

Flyering for Clean Up Day, Home Tour, Art Crawl, Social Event in May, and Bike Path Planting Day

Darren, Lam and Meredith, and Jennifer volunteered to hand out flyers for all of our spring events. Lindsay and Mark will create the flyer soon!

Street Painting Project - Partnership with NeighborWorks Home Partners - June 6-14 NeighborWorks Week

This was an idea that was brought up at your March meeting. NWHP reached out about partnering with his on this idea during their NeighborWorks Week. The feedback was to do this idea, but we need more time to gather signatures and research costs. We'll look into doing this next Spring/Summer. Instead we'll ask NWHP if we can partner on our bike path planting day on June 13th. More about the planting day below.

Fiscal Agent Update - Meredith and Mark

Mark and Meredith have sent a letter to The Community Reporter to ask for official approval to allow The CR to be our fiscal agent. Once that is approved, we'll move forward with the transition.

CIB Grant Presentation Update

Mark presented our Capital Improvement Budget proposal to the board on Monday. The board asked good questions, and it sounds like the costs of our projects have significantly increased since we last presented our proposal. We'll know if we got funding once the Mayor's budget is presented. The CIB board will be doing a bus tour on Saturday and we need neighbors to come out to Pleasant Place to cheer when the bus goes by! More neighbors increases our chances of getting funding.

CIB Bus Tour - April 4th

THIS SATURDAY! We need neighbors to be at Pleasant Place when the CIB board drives by on the bus. We are working on getting an exact time, but plan on sometime in the morning.

Pleasant Place and CRP Grant Update - Jennifer G.

Jennifer is a rockstar.

1. St. Paul has agreed to water our plants during Phase 1. They are looking for a little money from LBNA to make it an official transaction.
2. Journeys School is going to implement the DNR's Forrestry in the Schools program. MNDot needs to approve that the students can work on the land. The program will be

important to the long-term maintenance of the path including picking up trash and maintenance. There will be a conservation easement on the land. Another idea was to have the Journeys carpentry program use stumps for an education area in Pleasant Place.

3. MPCA and Wolf Ridge will be using the space in July for a water monitoring program. MPCA also has some grant money (\$8,000) that can be used for signage including wayfinding and a board for community events.
4. Tree Treks with Citizen Pruners - there will be an inventory of trees, so folks can walk the path and identify different kinds of trees.
5. **PLANTING DAY IS JUNE 13TH!** The MNDot CRP grant will be completed in three years in three phases. The first phase is underway right now with clearing the path and preparing for our first planting day - June 13th. We need neighbors, friends, family, businesses, organizations, schools to pitching with volunteers to help us plant the first phase of the plan, which is from Grand Ave to Harrison and a little bit at the end of the path on St. Clair.
6. Barricades on the path will continue as work continues. The canopy between Duke and Michigan will be removed.
7. A future project (or current if there is an interested party) is to work on the hillside area past Duke. That area is “unmanaged” and will need The City, MNDot, and homeowners to work together to find a solution.

Problem Properties / Safety Concerns

The helicopters and cops from Monday were from following burglary suspects. They were apprehended.

There have been some curious blue pots around the neighborhood. Reaching out to Shawn Longen to find out more information.

Remember to call 266-8989, and report nuisance properties to the City!

The next LBNA business meeting will be [time and date], hosted by [name] at [address]. Send agenda ideas to info@littlebohemiapaul.org