

Little Bohemia Neighborhood Association
Meeting notes, January 8, 2019

Meeting hosted by Tom and Marit, 74 Garfield Street, 7:00 PM

Co-chaired by Lam and Mike

Introductions!

Sign up to host 2019 LBNA meetings. Lam/Mike. There's been a request to change our meeting date in July. Lam will talk and see if we can simply meet that evening from 6:00 to 7:00 PM, at Waldmann, then stay for Trivia Mafia! November's meeting will be moved from 11/5 to 11/7 to accommodate Election Day.

Update: parking study. Mark. This will cover Kellogg to St. Clair, and examine parking spots (where are they? where are there too few?) as well as parking regulations. Anyone who wishes to be involved can do so. Talk to Mark.

Separately, Jeffrey Austin (River Garden Yoga Center) is talking with Greg Eckbaum and John Yust about protecting or increasing parking spaces for businesses in the immediate area. If you want to weigh in, please talk to Jeffrey (651-270-6643), Greg or John.

Construction over the Bonfe's Automotive property. Jen. We had a presentation about this construction project late in 2018. We were told it would be a 5-story building with parking beneath, and very small apartments, replacing what is now the Bonfe's building on the northern side of West 7th Street. More recently, some of our members have heard that this project is on hold, at least temporarily.

Housing update: 412 Goodrich, "the John Lewis House." Tom/Naomi. Nothing to report tonight, other than that funding from the FHA has been secured, and construction will begin in the spring. Huzzah!

Current problem properties/safety concerns. XCel Energy has been trimming trees, and some of our sidewalks have been blocked with the cut brush. Lindsay got a robocall saying it would be picked up.

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

Bike Path Phase III update. Jen. Jen's City contact Tony does not have much information right now, except that we'll have approximately \$10,000 to spend. (Some of us remember that the amount we were promised is \$30,000. Jen will inquire.) The hope is that we'll focus on areas that have not yet been planted. Spring planting might create a problem with watering; fall planting has other drawbacks. The area under discussion is the southern end of Harrison Avenue to Michigan Avenue, next to St. Clair. Jen will send her list to Lam and Mike for distribution.

Jen has a baby coming in March, and needs to hand off leadership of this project to another volunteer. Lam will send out a call for volunteers. Sara Gleason is willing to help, but *not*

take leadership. Mary Ayinde was nominated to take up leadership and might be approachable on this; she loves to garden and it shows.

The City Council will vote on Phase III at their next meeting. The past two phases didn't get any discussion and were routinely approved, so we don't expect too much resistance.

Do we need to look at our list of who has already volunteered to plant and maintain a plot along the bike path by Forbes and Harrison? Especially since we're adding some new plots?

Home Tour. Margo Ashmore. Last year, 74 Garfield was the only home on the tour in our neighborhood. Attendance was therefore down. This year's tour is April 27-28. If anyone would like to show off their homes, in whole or in part, all are invited. It's not limited only to recently-remodeled houses. Renters are welcome as well. Keg & Case Market will be on the tour! It's free publicity for the neighborhood. The slogan is "Real people, real homes, real ideas" and that admirably sums up the eclecticism of the tour. You can reach Margo at 612-867-4874. Please reach out to her by January 20 with expressions of interest (for you or for a neighbor), since Margo follows up personally with each lead.

LBNA: 10 years! The Little Bohemia Neighborhood Association formed here, in Tom and Marit's front parlor, back in February 2008. A lot has changed. When we formed, we faced a crisis: the foreclosure wave was sweeping through our neighborhood, and one unethical landlord had purchased over 30 properties in our area—all of them were run down and badly cared-for. Few neighbors knew one another. Then-Councilman Dave Thune ponied up some money and made clear that the City would do what it thought best unless neighbors got involved. 20 people showed up to our first meeting!

We agreed on some values and goals, including working with the City and the Fort Road Federation whenever possible. Projects have included repairing and planting along our bike path, a Habitat for Humanity building project, building Pleasant Park, excellent annual National Nights Out, supporting Bad Weather Brewing and Waldman Brewing, and much good feeling. Many developers and businesses have been very supportive. We have built a community! Let's have cake!

Mark notes that LBNA is receiving an award as part of the 2018 Neighborhood Honor Roll. See below in Upcoming Events.

Next meeting. The next LBNA business meeting will be 7:00 PM Tuesday, February 5, hosted by Mark and Lindsay at 455 Banfil Street. Send agenda ideas to info@littlebohemiastpaul.org

Upcoming events:

Thursday January 24 - Sunday February 3. St. Paul Winter Carnival. Various locations. <https://www.facebook.com/events/572791623141260/>.

Friday, January 25, 2019, 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM. 2018 Neighborhood Honor Roll at the University of St. Thomas. <https://www.facebook.com/events/2271042096262401/>.

Wednesday, January 30, 2019 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM. What Does an Improved West 7th Mean to You? at Palace Community Center.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/527075324471271/>

If you find glaring errors in these notes, please send corrections to dwsisk@gmail.com