

Little Bohemia Neighborhood Association
Meeting notes, July 2, 2015

Meeting hosted by Sara Diedrich, 421 Goodrich, 7:00 PM

Co-chaired by Lindsay and Mark

Introductions! We went around the circle.

Bike path update: CIB Grant and CRP Grant. Jennifer Gelhar reviewed what's been done. In 2 days, volunteers planted 969 trees; 50 people helped out. It looks great. The City has been watering, and there are bags on the trees to help them get a healthy start. A bunch of hoses have been donated—Marit is storing them at her home on Garfield—and we can use these to water the new growth as needed. Next up: we need to determine who can help water, mulch and do plant upkeep. For \$200/\$300 per season, we can get a tap that attaches to a fire hydrant from Public Works. We'd be billed for the water we use, and then take it off at the end of the season. Or, people might “adopt” particular sections of the path.

Mulch aids with water retention and weed control. There's general interest in a couple of monthly “mulching parties” over the summer, one weekday and one weekend. Of course, anyone is welcome to go over and mulch when they wish. **Dates are July 13 (at 7:00 PM) and July 25 (at 10:00 AM).**

Capital Improvement Budget Grant: our proposal has been recommended for funding! The plan involves several improvements to the bike path. If Mayor Coleman approves it, improvements will begin within the next 3 years.

There was some discussion about when (and if) the City will be repairing/rebuilding the retaining wall. It needs work. Jennifer has a contact with Public Works and will inquire about this.

There are problems with some folks bringing scooters and motorcycles onto the bike path. Keep reporting these—and if you know what house they're coming from, report that address (276 Forbes, for example). Perhaps the bike path improvements can include signs, stripes, barriers or other motorcycle deterrents.

How about mulching the shortcut on Douglas? Between the end of the sidewalk and the Burger King parking lot? Right now, it's mud.

We Are West 7th Project Update. Marit Brock points to the article in the most recent *Community Reporter*. The goal is to find safe activities and services for younger people (not small children, but adolescents and teens). There's an event at the Schmidt Brewery on July 13, for small local businesses to learn more about the program and participate if desired. Participation includes having one's business linked from the program's Web page. If you are interested in being part of this group, please contact Marit.

275 Erie Street Property. This is the big house that had been subdivided into a triplex, though it was never zoned and licensed for that. New owners have been trying to get a variance,

with neighborhood approval. Nearby neighbors are not interested, and the variance has failed twice. Now the owner is asking for signatures “because that will allow my son to live there.” Our stance is that we support single-family homes, and we support the neighbors who don’t want it developed as a triplex.

Housing Update. 41 Douglas has been sold. This is the small lot where the house from 447 Smith will be moved. It’s historic, so the façade can’t be altered, but the interior can be updated.

The Housing and Redevelopment Authority reports that 29 Douglas has been sold. 280 Forbes is listed or will be soon. 284 Forbes is 35% complete as of the contractor’s May report. 286 Forbes is 60% complete. 288 Forbes is 80% complete. There are three more houses the Federation will work on, and that will begin in the fall.

Rumor has it that a registered sex offender, level unclear, will soon move into the house at 418 Goodrich when he gets out on parole. Our police neighbor reports that such offenders cannot move freely. (But then again, we only get notification if a Level 3 registered offender is going to move in. We don’t get the right of approval in any case.) We don’t have much more information right now. If anyone finds out more, please circulate it.

National Night Out Planning. Our next meeting will be a party—Tuesday August 4, Pleasant Place, from 6:30 to 9:00 PM. We have a band! Wear blue. Bring an appetizer or a dessert to share, plus beverages of your choice. There may be karaoke. We have put in requests for firefighters, police, K9 units, mounted police—but we have no say over who shows up.

Problem Properties/Safety Concerns. There have been some problems with children running into the street without looking. Now it seems to be happening at the intersection of Banfil and Richmond. We may not be their parents, but we’re part of their village: please talk to the kids if you see them doing things they shouldn’t be doing. Can we get a “children playing” sign of some kind?

283 Harrison is occasionally very loud, around the clock. If you notice this, please report it *while it’s happening*.

There has been some reported drug-dealing activity in the alleyway between Harrison and Sturgis. Keep your eyes peeled.

There’s been some folks parking at the hairpin turn from Harrison to Goodrich, having sex in their cars, shooting up, generally lowering the tone of our beloved neighborhood. In the past it’s been a place for prostitutes to operate. Lighting is a good deterrent. Perhaps we can get some added here.

Remember to call 266-8989, and report nuisance properties to the City! And bear in mind, reports from one person may be ignored. Reports from multiple people will get results.

The next LBNA business meeting will be in September. Send agenda ideas to info@littlebohemiaspaul.org

If you find glaring errors in these notes, please send corrections to sisk@macalester.edu