

Little Bohemia Neighborhood Association
Meeting notes, September 1, 2016

Meeting hosted by Abbie, 38 Douglas Street, 7:00 PM

Co-chaired by Marit and Tom Brock. [Very early this morning, our regular co-chairs Lindsay Kimball and Mark Fangmeier welcomed their baby daughter Willemina Virginia Kimball-Fangmeier. All are well and—we trust—getting to know each other, sleeping and enjoying life.]

Introductions! We welcome two guest speakers tonight, Natalie and Reuben, and (*in absentia*) our newest neighbor, Willemina.

Preservation Alliance Presentation. Guest speaker: Natalie Heneghan. Natalie is the Education Coordinator at the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota. This is a statewide historic preservation nonprofit. “Preservation happens at a local, personal, level.” The PA helped rescue the large home now at 41 Douglas. They have hosted workshops on topics like restoring old windows, preserving floors, tuckpointing, rebuilding porches and other ideas, often driven by interesting suggestions. For example, “rehab labs” that come to houses undergoing rehabilitation and teach appropriate skills onsite. See <http://www.mnpreservation.org>

Natalie Heneghan, P: (651) 293-9047; C: (262) 302-9397; nheneghan@mnpreservation.org
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Discussion and brainstorming. Capital Improvement Budget (CIB) grant for repaving the path and adding light and water. Guest speaker: Reuben Collins, City of St. Paul Public Works. The design process has only just begun. Scope is unclear as yet. Construction is planned to begin Spring 2017 and continue for most of the summer. Not surprisingly, our “wish list” of projects is likely going to exceed the budget available. The key items called out in the grant application are:

- Resurfacing the existing asphalt path (overlay? reconstruct?)
- Safety improvements (crosswalks) at the ends of the existing path, especially St. Clair
- Lighting along the trail (what will adjoining backyard neighbors think?)
- Water access—it’s MNDOT right-of-way, so this is likely to be the most challenging element in the grant

Inevitably, trail reconstruction of any kind will involve removing some scrub and small trees that are growing in problematic locations (e.g. right next to the retaining wall). Trail width is also a question: right now it’s 8’, the bare minimum. But when our new plantings take hold, they will further restrict the path. Does it need to be widened? The width can vary—it does not have to be the same along the entire pathway.

Reuben Collins, P: (651) 266-6059; F: (651) 266-6222; reuben.collins@ci.stpaul.mn.us
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Little Bohemia Trail updates and next steps. Jen Gelhar. Bank Cherokee is interested in sending a group of volunteers to do some work. We could use a couple more such groups—talk to your churches and clubs. Might we want to have a fall party of some kind at Pleasant Park? For Halloween? An outdoor fireplace and a (contained) bonfire?

Publicity. The back side of the trail sign on Grand Avenue (next to Burger King) is available for LBNA to use as we wish. What do we want to do? Ideas include:

- Offering local businesses limited sponsorship possibilities
- Neighborhood history (MNHS grants/cost sharing opportunities?)
- A lockable glass case
- LBNA meeting and contact information
- Notices of community events

If anyone is interested in taking a leadership role in this project, please sing out. Sarah Gleason will flesh out a little information for volunteers to approach some businesses—DeGidio’s, Day By Day Café and Bad Weather Brewing.

2017 Garden Tour. In Little Bohemia! Our neighborhood! The West End Neighborhood Garden Tour has been going on for eight years, working with the Fort Road Federation. We’re looking for volunteers to participate. Pleasant Place will be on the list. June 10 2017 is the date. Marit has prepared a letter with information. Please reach out to Marit if you are interested:

Marit Brock, P: (612) 290-9332; maritbrock@gmail.com
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Proposed Changes in 3 Areas of West 7th, with diagrams. Sharon Lynch. Three areas are under study to facilitate safer intersections. The closest to us are triangles at Douglas/Goodrich/7th and Goodrich/Dousman/7th. This will go to the neighborhood business association for study, and then to a community meeting. Some streets would be narrowed, some would be made one-way, and there would be a marked crosswalk over West 7th at Day By Day.

Update on 314 Harrison Redevelopment/Zoning. Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity’s variance has been approved. Timeline for next steps:

- 9/14/16 - St. Paul HRA Public Hearing to approve TCHFH as the developer
- 10/31/16 - Estimated TCHFH closing date on parcel
- 11/1/16 – 2/28/17 - Begin Foundation work (weather dependent)
- 4/15/17 - 5/1/17 - Estimated Volunteer start

Problem Properties / Safety Concerns. We haven’t seen many police patrolling the area recently, even though we’ve seen some obvious drug dealing and a couple of chronic offending vagrants. We’d like to get a discussion going with City Council member Rebecca Noecker. Remember to call 266-8989, and report nuisance properties to the City!

Upcoming Events:

- September 16 - Full Moon Garden Night - from 6:30 to 7:30 PM along Little Bohemia Trail. Pick weeds, pick up trash, prune, rake, and plant. Bring your gardening gloves!
- October 16 - Full Moon Garden Night - from 6:30 to 7:30 PM along Little Bohemia Trail. Pick weeds, pick up trash, prune, rake, and plant. Bring your gardening gloves!

The next LBNA business meeting will be Thursday October 6, 280 Sturgis Street. Send agenda ideas to info@littlebohemiaspaul.org

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