

Little Bohemia Neighborhood Association
Meeting notes, September 3, 2019

Meeting hosted by Kendra and Jeremy Foss, 292 West Sturgis Street, 7:00 PM

Chaired by Mike.

Introductions!

LBNA Leadership/Structure Discussion.

- Lam is resigning his co-chair position = replacements! Lam has increased his professional responsibilities and must give up his co-chair position. He is *not* resigning from LBNA and social/neighborhood projects. Bee Fuentes has volunteered as new co-chair! Thanks!
- Committee (projects) structure discussion. What we need are one or more people who can take interest in, and help with leadership on projects as they arise going forward.

Journeys School ‘Playground.’

- There was a playground here years ago and it was removed. What next? The current school administration (Dan Wolff, principal) has an interest in collaborating on a service project. Don’t look for money from the St. Paul Schools, though. Mike will circulate some previous notes.

Housing Updates.

- 69 Garfield (Michael): The City owns this property. It would cost about \$62,000 **more** to restore it in historically accurate style, including foundation fixes and dealing with lead paint. (That assumes one wants historic designation for the house.) The building *could* have some historic significance. Unclear when the city and SHPO (State Historic Preservation Office) are going to move on this; they are discussing about finding a ‘middle ground’. During our discussion, it’s also unclear why this historic designation is necessary, given how much it would add to the cost of renovation. Mike will ask about the historic designation and see if it can be dropped.
- 412 Goodrich (Naomi/Sharon): The John Lewis House. Renovations are currently under way. The foundation under the historic house has been repaired, and a new foundation has been laid in the rear for a new addition. Historic Saint Paul now owns the house and property and is paying for the renovations. There will be some buyer restrictions when this house comes on the market, due to Federal funding.
- 47 Douglas (Jerry Klasen): Jerry lives across the alley from this property. He walked through it recently, and it’s not in as bad condition as one might expect. Jerry originally considered buying the lot and tearing the house down. He’s seen many people express an interest in rehabbing it, then abandon the idea. Jerry asked us as a neighborhood group how felt about the current house being razed, then seeing something built on it, congruent with the rest of the neighborhood? Discussion ensued, with a variety of viewpoints (that covered the spectrum from “rehab” to “raze and rebuild”).

Maybe 2 stories with a carport? The City has some restrictions about lot sizes, but for sites where there is currently a house, new construction can be grandfathered in. One point is that the interior is getting worse and worse as time goes on and developer interest has come and gone.

Despite the variety of opinions, there's a consensus that time is passing, and we can't wait forever. An informal deadline of end-of-calendar-2019 has gotten general agreement. Mike will check with the City for an update on the RFP.

- 376 Sturgis Habitat for Humanity house - home build opportunities! (Michael) This is the second 'House that Beer Built' (breweries are supporting the construction; Bad Weather is one of the sponsors). There are 4 slots left for volunteers to help with the work on **Friday, September 27th**, the first build date. Other dates are also available. If you're interested, see the 'Events' listing at the bottom of these notes.

Little Bohemia Trail Fall Planting October 5. (Carrie Wiste/Jessica Puckett) Phase III was put off from the spring because the City dragged its feet. The new date is **Saturday, October 5th**. We're eager to get plenty of help: talk to your church groups, your rugby teams, any groups that might help with the labor. If you represent a group of at least 3 individuals, please email Carrie at cwiste@gmail.com. Show up at the intersection of Duke Street and the bike path at 9:00 AM (as noted in the 'Events' listing, below). Planting goes until 5:00 PM. Bring hands, wheelbarrows, shovels and other useful tools. Brake Bread and Chicago's Taste Authority will provide free food for volunteers! Afterwards, Bad Weather Brewing will offer a beer discount for volunteers!

106 Douglas Street. (David) There are requested variances to turn the property into a mixed-use building, with a dentist's practice on the ground floor and apartments on the second floor. There is a public hearing 3:00 PM, Monday September 9, in Room 330 of the Courthouse, 15 Kellogg Boulevard West. There is also a letter-writing opportunity.

If you want to express your opinion or get more information, the City staff member handling the request is Jerome Benner II, jerome.benner.II@ci.stpaul.mn.us; he can be reached by phone at (651.266.9080). Mr. Benner is in the Department of Safety and Inspections.

Current Problem Properties/Safety Concerns. There is construction on the corner house at Sturgis and Garfield. The concern is that people are living on the property in campers and trailers. Is this a problem? Have permits been secured for the work on the house? (We think the goal is to create an exit from the basement apartment.) The level of concern expressed at the meeting was low, so we'll take no action at this time and keep our eyes open.

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

The next LBNA business meeting will be **Tuesday October 1**, hosted by Naomi and Mark at 90 South Garfield Street. Send agenda ideas to info@littlebohemiastpaul.org

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

Upcoming events:

Saturday, September 7, 2:00 to 11:00 PM. Flugtag Street Party on West 7th.
<https://www.facebook.com/events/630507464095067/>

Saturday, September 7, 7:30 to 9:00 PM. Grand Oak Opry Presents Maria Isa. 273 Goodhue Street. <https://www.facebook.com/events/395766397682203/>

Friday, September 13, 4:00 PM to Saturday, September 14, 10:00 PM. 2019 St. Paul Oktoberfest. Schmidt Artist Lofts, West 7th Street.
https://www.facebook.com/events/2100157070289732/?event_time_id=2100157073623065

Sunday, September 15, 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Fall Festival 2019. Sokol Minnesota, 383 Michigan Street.
<https://www.facebook.com/events/446504686195037/>

Thursday, September 19, 6:00 to 8:00 PM. Little Bohemia Trail Gardening & Weeding. Pleasant Place, Harrison and Garfield.
<https://www.facebook.com/events/395475567756149/>

Saturday, September 21, 6:30 to 8:00 PM. Grand Oak Opry Presents the Roe Family Singers. 273 Goodhue Street.
<https://www.facebook.com/events/2176509392469999/>

Friday, September 27, 5:00 PM to Sunday, September 29, 7:00 PM. Waldmann Oktoberfest. Waldmann Brewery, 445 Smith Avenue North.
<https://www.facebook.com/events/2659902387410002/>

Friday, September 27, 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM. Homebuilding opportunity in the neighborhood with Habitat for Humanity! 376 West Sturgis Street, St. Paul.
<https://tchabitat.volunteerhub.com/lp/HTBB/>