

**Little Bohemia Neighborhood Association**  
**Meeting notes, November 6 2018**

**Meeting hosted by Kelly and Dustin (and Elsie), 489 Goodhue Street, 7:00 PM**

Chaired by Mike O'Hare

**Introductions!**

**New building.** Guest speakers: Dave Higgins from McGough Development. A new 100-unit micro apartment building is planned on West 7<sup>th</sup>, behind the labor building. These will be smaller than typical studio-sized apartments, say 320 to 400 square feet. Bonfe's is planning to centralize their facilities on the south side of West 7<sup>th</sup>, in their newer building. McGough is planning to build on the north side (the old Bonfe's site). They've met with the Fort Road Federation, some City staff and at least one City Council member, with positive results. The bottom 2 floors would be primarily parking, with 3 floors of rental apartments above that—approximately the same building height as the new Marriott Residence Inn nearby. This would require zoning amendments and/or variances from the City. Construction might start in spring 2019. If people have questions or concerns, please call Dave at 617-510-0429 or email him at [david.higgins@mcgough.com](mailto:david.higgins@mcgough.com).

**Hosting signups.** Mike. Sign up to host 2019 LBNA business meetings.

**Thank you remarks!** Bill Stanley.

- Bill has been reading the monthly neighborhood newsletter for 4 years now. He is really impressed with all of the projects taken on by our group to improve the area.
- Bill's son owns 294 Sturgis and Bill helps him with it. He just wants to let the group know that they had the same family renting there the last 3 years and they have his contact information (plus Renters' Warehouse) for any problems. He drives by monthly to check on the condition. The last storm that came through, he had a roofer inspect the roof. It's stained from the leaves but the shingles are not curled or leaking. Bill drove by last a couple Saturdays ago and they looked fine. They did a major interior rehab when they purchased the house (planning on Bill's son living there) including windows, all new electrical, plumbing, insulation, flooring, kitchen and interior sheetrock.

**December Social Gathering.** Mike. This is scheduled for Sunday December 2 from 4:00 to 7:00 PM at DeGidio's. There is currently a reservation for 20 people.

**Parking Survey Update.** Mark. A study of West 7<sup>th</sup>'s Area 1 parking has begun. People who have expressed an interest will be hearing either from the consultants (Biko Associates) or Ross Currier, City staff member at PED, soon. It is not too late to volunteer—talk to Mark Fangmeier.

**Housing Updates.**

- 412 Goodrich, 'the John Lewis House.' The \$50K grant has been received! This is the 'gap funding' between the funds that had already been raised and what was needed.
- 47 Douglas. No update tonight.

**Bike Path Phase III.** Information sent by Jen Gelhar.

- Jen is still waiting for the City to sign the resolution for phase 3 and give it to MNDoT. Are there any new plants anyone wants to see in phase 3? So far we have the rest of the trees on tree trek (planted 3 apple this year), raspberry, lilac, etc. Jen will try to pull up a full list and send to Lam Nguyen for distribution.
- Jen has heard from Tony at MNDOT: “I wanted to see if the neighborhood would like to start talking about PHASE III? There are some areas of the trail project that left some openings or some potential spots where we can place some shrubs, trees, perennials and we can also get plant material to complete the Tree Trek.” Let Jen know what you all discuss!

**Topic.** Problem Properties: 475 Banfil Street. Information sent by Kathleen Hale.

- In August, a teenager who used to live there broke into the house with some friends. The tenants were evicted and exited the property August 1. In late September, the back door was wide open and the police were called by the neighbor across the street. Workers have been going in and out of the property with no visible work permit on the property. Kathleen Hale filed a complaint with the City re: the lack of a permit(s); there is now one in a front window. The City of St. Paul has a three-category vacant building list, and this building should be on it. Kathleen hasn't addressed that issue with the City and hopes the permit will take care of that situation. There is a cost to the property owner for a property to be placed on the vacant buildings list and is a City requirement for all vacant buildings. The exact cost is determined by which of the three categories the property falls under.
- Kathleen has been told by a neighbor that the property owner stated he would be fixing up the property when the tenants moved and then placing it for sale.
- Kathleen believes the issues with this property will not be completely resolved until the property is sold since the current owner is a slumlord. She believes LBNA should maintain a vigilance with this property given its history.

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

**Next Meeting:**

- Sunday, December 2, 2018 from 4:00 to 7:00 PM - Holiday Social at DeGidios's. (Because of the Holiday Gathering there will be no December business meeting. Our next LBNA meeting will be Tuesday, January 8 2019.)

**Other Events:**

- Thursday, November 8 from 6:00 to 8:30 PM - Historic St. Paul 20th Anniversary Celebration at the University Club of St. Paul.  
<https://www.facebook.com/events/749811125360922/>

- Saturday and Sunday, November 17-18 at 1:00 PM. 2nd Annual Thanksgiving Food Drive at Journeys Secondary School.  
<https://www.facebook.com/events/316854212444422/>
- Sunday, November 18 from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Holiday Pancake Breakfast at Sokol Minnesota. <https://www.facebook.com/events/355202155221658/>
- Friday - Sunday, November 23 - 25. Holiday Market at the Schmidt.  
<https://www.facebook.com/events/978715968978799/>

The next LBNA business meeting will be January 8 2019, hosted by Tom and Marit Brock at 74 Garfield Street. Send agenda ideas to [info@littlebohemiaspaul.org](mailto:info@littlebohemiaspaul.org)

If you find glaring errors in these notes, please send corrections to [dwsisk@gmail.com](mailto:dwsisk@gmail.com)