

## **Meeting hosted by Nikki, 73 Western Avenue, 7:00 PM**

Chaired by Mike O'Hare

**Introductions!** Yes, it's snowing, and we feel like Arctic explorers trudging over to Nikki's.

**Fort Road Federation Update.** Emily. Friends of the Parks and Trails plant sale brochures were distributed. The annual Federation business meeting and Board election will be held at Summit Brewing Company, Wednesday April 11, 6:30 to 8:30 PM. Mayor Melvin Carter will speak. Mark Fangmeier and Wendy Underwood are the 2 candidates for our neighborhood's 2 Board seats. Event registration:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fort-road-federation-annual-meeting-2018-tickets-42990352301?aff=eac2> (or, just go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/> and search for 'Fort Road Federation Annual Meeting')

There will be a public hearing April 20 about 'granny flats.' No decisions have been announced or will be announced at this meeting.

**Residence Inn (200 Grand Avenue) Sign Variance Request.** Mike. Brady Nordland, owner of the hotel addition under construction at 200 Grand Avenue, is petitioning the City for a variance to put up a larger sign than current regulations permit. Mike circulated a copy of the request. We're not inclined to fight this, given their level of cooperation in preserving the old fire station.

**Garden Adopters Update.** Jenny. (Absent; topic put over to our next meeting.) We have picked a general date of the third Monday of each month. The next scheduled gathering is Monday April 16, 6:30 to 7:30 PM. (Weather permitting!)

**Citywide Spring Cleanup Day Planning.** Mike. **Saturday April 21<sup>st</sup> from 9:30 to 11:30 AM;** gather at Pleasant Place, corner of Harrison and Garfield. The City will give us garbage bags (will they collect the full bags this year?).

**412 Goodrich Update.** Naomi. This is the John Lewis house, which was built in 1856, the year before Minnesota became a state—only about ten of these 'pioneer' houses remain. The effort to restore it is not going as well as it should. It will cost some \$130K to repair, but will be valued at considerably less than that when it goes on the market. (The rear part of the house dates from the 1880s.) Historic Preservation St. Paul, the rehab group, needs to fill the gap between these sums in order to proceed. So far, about \$18K has been raised.

Now it appears that the foundation may be in poorer shape than was thought. If the foundation is unsound, that may kill the project, since it would add at least \$40K—\$50K to the gap funding. Funding has to be lined up before the final City Council meeting in May which grants approval/denial. Might LBNA solicit small donations from our neighborhood members? (To show support for preserving the house, and thereby motivate funding sources with deeper pockets.) Naomi mentions the ancient pear tree behind the house; perhaps we

might be able to take and preserve some cuttings? As a fund-raiser, or at least to help local gardeners continue the tradition?

**Home Tour Volunteers Needed.** Mike. Each house needs a volunteer for check-in. The event will be held April 28-29. More information should be forthcoming, including links to a Sign Up Genius page.

**Current Problem Properties / Safety Concerns.** Nikki has had someone try to break into her garage, destroying the lock in the process. Ericka lives half a block away, and noticed similar garage damage only a few days later. Be vigilant!

Naomi has found a hypodermic needle in Pleasant Place. One is no cause for panic. If we start seeing many needles, though, we may want to alert the police. If you find a needle, please mention it to your neighbors. Perhaps we should have a 'sharps' container to avoid anyone getting injured.

292 Sturgis has been pretty quiet of late. The bank that owns that house is occasionally leaving alternating lights turned on.

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

The next LBNA meeting will be our May social event, Tuesday May 1 from 7:00 to 8:30 PM, hosted by Ericka at 528 Harrison Avenue. BYOB and a dish to share.

Please send your agenda ideas to [info@littlebohemiastpaul.org](mailto:info@littlebohemiastpaul.org)

If you find glaring errors in these notes, please send corrections to [sisk@macalester.edu](mailto:sisk@macalester.edu)