



**UNIQUE
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University Heights Collaborative
5 W. Northrup Place
Buffalo, NY 14214
www.ourheights.org

October 13, 2015

UHC General Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:10PM

1. Speaker Keith Barnes and Ben Upshaw – Updates on School 63/Campus North:

- Lofts at University Heights
- Been meeting with Minnesota Avenue Block Club to discuss project
- This was the first opportunity to discuss the project with outside players
- Both natives of Buffalo
- Carmina Wood and Morris is a state-wide organization
- It's a great time to be in Western NY to develop projects
- Working with the City of Niagara Falls
- Intend to build 45 units of housing
- Produce twenty-eight 1 bedroom, seventeen 2 bedroom units, from 600 to 900 sq. ft.
- All residents will have energy conservation packages
- Timing of the project: working on the project for 9 months
- Received part 1 approval from NYS Historic Office
- Will be listed as a historical structure
- Waiting on part 2 which will be sent to National Park Service
- Site plan was approved by the planning board in September
- Located on Minnesota Avenue, Cordova and Lisbon Avenue
- Rearranging parking lot area
- There will be parking on Minnesota Avenue and will go to Lisbon
- There will be a gated area for residents
- No special populations
- Market Rate housing
- Rent ranging from \$600 – \$700 for 1 bedroom
- \$700-\$800 for 2 bedroom (electric included)
- Intend to start in April
- No official plan yet to hire locally
- Board on board fence will go down
- \$10 million costs for project
- Concern: the longer the building is vacant, the more work that needs to be done (mold, lead paint, asbestos, etc.)
- Has to lock into rental costs by April

2. Speaker Sarah Eisenstark – University District Bicycle Infrastructure

- Researching the opportunity for bicycle infrastructure
- Projects outlined in Master Plan have not been taking place in UH district
- Push from Linear Park residents to have bike lanes
- District has a NYS bike route in Main Street
- Area will not see the benefits from the Master Plan
- Need to show the city the importance of bringing bike lanes and infrastructure to the Heights
 - Ray Reichert: We need to make the infrastructure easy to get to downtown
 - Dr. Barbara Bono: Will we be removing the medians on Main Street? What can we do about that median?
 - Doris Corley: There is a resolution to remove the medians from Bailey to Main Street down to Hertle
 - Ray Reichert: Without the medians we could have more room for a bike lane
 - Aaron Krolkowski: Main Street is really awful for cycling; residential alternatives to Main Street should be clearly marked as substitutes (like Parkridge). What is the plan for connecting Rails to Trails to the residential infrastructure
 - Matt Kopalek: When people get their license they should be educated for about 20 minutes on how to make sure how to be safe around bikes
 - Winspear bike lane would slow down driving
 - John O'Brian: LaSalle would make a better alternative because it is close to Bailey, wider and close to the subway. Other than that, we could do Minnesota Avenue (although it does have a median so this would need to be removed)

3. Senior Programs at the Gloria J Parks Community Center:

- Urging people to send pamphlets to block clubs and seniors
- There are programs for individuals
- Transportation is difficult: looking for volunteers to help seniors get to the center
- Lunch starts at noon, Tuesdays and Thursdays bingo starts at 10 am. After noon lunch there are more programs
- The van used to be handicap accessible
- To be a part of the program you need your name on the list

4. Snow Removal Pilot Program:

- Block clubs signing off on getting cars off of street so city can plow on certain days
- Emergency vehicles were not able to get through in bad weather
- Doris Corley:
 - 311 calls come from snow removal and grass cutting
 - Pilot program would be for block clubs and organizations to sign up to be the go-to person with their direct phone number to make arrangements in advance to inform of neighborhood alert

- Community members will know that people are coming through and neighbors will move cars off of street
- Where would we put the cars?
 - Coordinated through neighborhood leader
 - Commissioner confirmed the plan
 - Intend to move forward with the project
- Would cars get ticketed if they switched sides?
- This pilot program is removing the cars all together
- Seven block clubs have signed on so far
- Some schools have offered their parking lots for space to keep cars
- There will be another meeting

5. UB HOME Loan program:

- \$7500 dollars grant for down payment, closing costs, or renovation work
- Moving forward
- No discussion yet for current UH residents who are UB employees
- Call Westside Neighborhood Housing Services on Connecticut for dates, questions

6. Lisbon/Cordova:

- Skipped for now
- Meeting on November 30th

7. Rails to Trails:

- In another week there will be some extensions
- All the lights are up
- Will be lit next week (dusk to dawn)
- More amenities in Linear Park for next year

8. Garden Walk:

- July 16th
- Fundraiser selling candy bars
- Solidify memorial funds

9. UB Community Service

- November 15th
- 25 people are participating
- Students were given community service after their disruptive acts in neighborhood

10. Tool Library:

- Tool raiser on the 14th at the Foundry
- Noon to four: collecting old tools that still work
- New additions to the inventory
- Accepting donations of bicycles to recycle and electronics
- ReTree: 140 trees planted in the ground, with 200 volunteers
- 575 trees planted so far

11. CoLab

- HOME workshops on November 18th at 6 pm
- Drywall 101 class on November 19th at 5 pm

12. Tyler Street Garden

- Putting Your Garden to Bed
- Barbara Bono donated 1000 bulbs
- LaSalle is next target
- Let TSG know if you would like some bulbs in your neighborhood!
- Residents are open to taking bulbs
- First 300 planted on Flower Street

13. University District Community Development Association

- Delaware District home repair program up to \$20,000 to be used
- No funds for University District left
- Uptown Theater is progressing and should open in the next month
- Parkside historical renovations will be happening

14. Main Street Business Association:

- IMPACT team is being proposed
- There is strong interest in participating in Small Business Saturday (after Black Friday) November 28th
- Tucker is interested in lighting all the Main Street trees
- Next meeting is Wednesday, December 2nd at 6:30PM at the Steer

15. University District Block Club Coalition:

- Collecting thanksgiving foods
- Collected up until December 11
- Distribution on December 16th
- Corn, beans, gravy, cake mix all being collected in bins
- 995 Kensington Avenue
- Application available online at www.ourheights.org/holiday and Gloria J. Parks
- 100/125 has to be within Buffalo Promise Neighborhood

16. Councilman's Office:

- City is having open house on Saturday at ECC City from 9 to 3 pm with Office of Strategic Planning about Green Code
- University District open house on November 19th from 5:30- 7 pm at Diefendorf hosted by Councilman Wyatt
- Turkey Giveaway for families meeting criteria: asking for block club involvement
- If you have a family refer them to office to be put on list (must provide id, be low-income, and be resident of Heights District)
- Need family information beforehand
- 100 turkeys go fast
- Flier going out to block club leaders and councilmembers to light up University
- Encouraging good spirit in the community – spread this message
- Tell neighbors and businesses to light up houses

17. Dr. Barbara Bono:

- Spectrum article covered ReTree and President Satish Tripathi
- Student journalism at UB is important
- President involved in community

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm

Please visit our website <http://www.ourheights.org/> for updates on agendas and minutes from previous meetings and well as news and events from the community.

The next general UHC meeting will be Tuesday, December 8, 2015 at 7:00pm