



**UNIQUE  
DIVERSE  
AFFORDABLE**

University Heights Collaborative  
5 W. Northrup Place  
Buffalo, NY 14214  
[www.ourheights.org](http://www.ourheights.org)

February 9, 2016

## **UHC General Meeting Minutes**

*Started at 7:06*

### **Varsity Theater Grand Opening:**

- Opening on Friday from 3-6 pm to the public
- Is in functioning order and will be rented to live theater companies and banquets
- Exciting new opportunity for the community
- Still accepting ideas for the new space

### **County Legislator Peter Savage**

- On March 3<sup>rd</sup> from 7 pm to 9 pm at North Park Theater there will be a town hall meeting about the opiate issue in the county
- Save the Michaels of the World will be hosting the event
- Information on the dangers of opiate will be provided
- Issue is within every neighborhood in the community
- 23 deaths since January as a result of opiate overdose
- County Executive declared state of emergency for Erie County
- Come and learn about the issues and participate in the public discussion
- Insurance companies are not treating this issue as an issue
- Please come to this event – bringing it to the community is important

### **Automated Community Garden System**

- Joe Kurtz:
  - Working with engineering group from UB interested in a community project
  - The goal was to develop an automated watering system for 73 Tyler Street Garden
  - UB student engineers put their ideas into practice
  - How can we minimize people's time spent on watering?
  - Wanted it to be a model for the gardening system
  - Looking for feedback on the system
  - The watering line will be paid for by the funds
  - Both systems equate for 80 percent of rain water
- Barbara:
  - Why is Design A cheaper?
- Joe:
  - Design A has a more robust emitter

- Irrigation emitters time out how much water the beds get
  - The power for the pumps is still the neighbor's resources
  - Solar panels are more expensive to implement
  - Sustainable electrical source has not yet been discovered for this project
  - There could be a hybrid system of the two proposed systems for the Tyler Street Garden
  - This has already been an open area with no problems for three years, despite concerns
  - Structure is 40/50 ft. back
  - Size is legal
  - We need to get feedback for design
  - Open for changing these systems that are proposed
- What about vandalism?
    - This could be inviting to those who are committing crimes like theft
    - This could look like a picnic shelter
    - We don't want to spend money and then have it vandalized

### **UB Community Day**

- Matt Kopalek:
  - Volunteer Service day once a semester
  - Occurring on April 2<sup>nd</sup>
  - Volunteers sent to assist residents and block clubs on projects
  - Not specialized work i.e. beautification, painting, etc.
  - Will bring a community request form to the next meeting so people can ask for volunteers for their project
  - Email blasts will begin
  - UB on the Green: Summer Concert Series should be the last three Wednesdays in July
  - Looking to have the first night with healthcare fair and community night – 30 or 35 community organizations and 25 groups providing free services and healthy food
  - Will look for input for bands
  - Reach out with ideas for UB on the Green
  - No start date just yet
  - Summer Outdoor Movie Series on Hayes Hall Lawn

### **Rails to Trails:**

- Work has stopped until Spring
- A lot of water is pooling by Nicholson and Linear Park and pictures of this is being sent to the City
- Planning to work with city architect and engineers
- Looking to finish the space and having a grand opening in the summer
- Mickey Vertino:
  - \$15,000 given to UHC from Joe Dash to use for Rails to Trails
  - Slow Roll and lighting up the trail could be a new project
  - We can make the area festive
  - Have secured funding to get a camera on Custard Street
  - Want to protect investment
- Candy:

- Need a camera on Merrimac Street
- Bike path is only lit on our side right now
- People from Tonawanda want lights on their side of Rails to Trails

### **Capen Garden Walk:**

- Linda
  - Beautiful poster to find at [ourheights.org/gardenwalk](http://ourheights.org/gardenwalk)
  - Nearly done with candy sale with chocolate selling for \$1
  - Christine H. Brooks Garden Grant ready to go
- Grant will be available for people who want to beautify their gardens
- The funding is secured
- Application is online – deadline is March 31<sup>st</sup> and the winner will be announced on May 1<sup>st</sup>
- The winner must be in the Garden Walk on July 16<sup>th</sup>
- If you would like to help fund the Christine Brooks garden grant look at the website to contribute
- Still do not know how many people will apply
- Still do not know what they will be interested in doing
- No determined amount of money for prize yet

### **Tool Library:**

- Looking to become more sustainable
- Raising prices to \$20 per year
- Amnesty period for \$10 until February 22<sup>nd</sup>

### **ReTree the District:**

- April 16<sup>th</sup> is Retree the District
- First planning meeting took place last weekend
- March 5<sup>th</sup> will be a planning meeting
- Come and get involved!
- Saturday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, there will be door knocking
- Visit [ourheights.org/retree](http://ourheights.org/retree) to request a tree
- Last weekend the group removed stakes
- Looking forward to the next step
- Survival rate is outdoing the city's survival rate

### **CoLab:**

- Beginning to work with the Gloria J. Parks Community Center for a science class taught by UB students to 2<sup>nd</sup> graders
- Check out [ourheights.org/colab](http://ourheights.org/colab) to look at class calendar

### **Tyler Street Gardens:**

- Grassroots Gardens looking to purchase garden lots
- Person who owns the Tyler Street Garden lot is looking to lease the lot to the garden group
- Be on the look out for raised bed adoption contracts and classes at the CoLab

**UDCDA:**

- New programs, like 50-50 rehab looking for applications from people wanting help with rehab project
- Applications being accepted for the Emergency Home Repairs program which provides new roofs
- Down payment and closing cost assistance is offered for eligible homeowners in the University and Delaware Districts
- If you can benefit from these programs contact UDCDA

**University Heights Business Association:**

Mickey Vertino:

- Stagnant so far
- Opportunities coming along this way
- On Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup> there is a meeting to nominate new officers
- Seven businesses involved so far
- Issues addressed include garbage cans, sidewalks, gardening, etc.

**Lisbon-Cordova Block Club:**

- Emma is here from the organization
- Change is happening in the neighborhood with efforts like the healthy food deli
- All the healthy food is sold out
- Developer is in the area looking to change some things
- There is interest in a community garden in the neighborhood
- Reduction in crime is happening

**E-District Meeting on February 10<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm**

- Will provide update on shooting on Main Street
- Working aggressively to deter violence in our neighborhood

*Meeting closed at 7:54 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, March 8, 2016 at 7:00pm***