



**UNIQUE  
DIVERSE  
AFFORDABLE**

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

## **UHC General Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, April 12, 2016 at 7:00pm

*Called to Order at 7:08 pm*

### **1. Buffalo Promise Neighborhood Livable Communities Grant:**

- \$500 grant for enhanced quality of life available
- Matching grant must be matched up to \$500
- Applications online and on each table

### **2. Spring it on Report**

- \$385 raised to cover costs of future neighborhood events
- People can still donate on GiveGab
- Used to organize volunteer events
- Used for ReTree, garden walk and the tool library
- Working to have tool library self sustained

### **3. Make Music Day**

- In Buffalo officially
  - From Arts Service Initiatives
  - Encourage people, professional and not, to make music wherever they are more likely in a public place
  - Doing this around the world
  - Find as many public spaces as possible for music to played throughout the day
  - June 21<sup>st</sup> around the world
  - Find locations where people can introduce themselves as musicians
  - UHC possibly could let people know where they could play in the neighborhood (public space available in the community)
  - Will the city have a problem having music in the street?
  - Any type of event on the city street will need approval
- Aaron K.:

- o Can we collaborate with UB on the Green?

Matt K.:

- o Last three Thursdays in July are UB on the Green

Gail W.:

- Using the Tool Library as a rain location

#### **4. Recycling Drive**

- We need to increase the value of recycling in the neighborhood
- Getting youth more involved in recycling

#### **5. Rails to Trails and Linear Park:**

- 2 hour walk with city engineers was done
- 80 percent of the project is finished
- Had at least three areas of ducks swimming: we need these areas drained so we can avoid ducks
- A lot of the brush has been removed
- The city will need to do something and they are not finished with these problems
- The Park Commissioner was there
- There is a need for cameras at Merrimac, Custard Street, and possibly another street
- We need to see what we can do to make sure it is protected and we need to be proactive
- Will the water be drained in a storm sewer? The city still needs to address where the water will go. A lot of the dirt was pushed towards the berm so what was done did not work
- The walk was done to identify problems
- Will Mr. Dash provide some money for these cameras?
- The city first needs to fix the path before large beautification measures could be done
- Is this flooding new? It is possible that this is a low land area
- Mickey V.:
  - Merrimac will probably have the city pick up the tab for camera
  - We need to know what it will cost before we ask for money from Dash and other groups
  - On the other side of the path there was a drain so now there is a wet patch
- Joe Kurtz:
  - We could plant a rain garden
  - Planting plants that take all of the water in addition to drainage
  - 12 inches may be too much but if there is a way to divert it than this could be possible
- The soil is very clayey
- The plants will not necessarily be the remedy
- Across Kenmore Avenue, one of the problems with the crossing signal is that there was damage on the bolts with the pole
- City won't begin work until late May
- Park needs to be accessible according to ADA (American Disabilities Act) regulations
- The slope for wheelchair access has specific regulations
- The NFTA may need to be involved with the property
- Mr. Dash gave us some funds to improve Rails to Trails

#### **6. Capen Garden Walk:**

- Two things going right now
- Campaign to get advertising for walking map

- Asking area businesses to see if they would like an ad to show up on the map for the walk on July 16<sup>th</sup>
- Looking for donations from individuals
- Will be choosing a winner for the Christine Brooks Gardening Grant
- The application window is closed
- The person will be notified by the first of May
- May 21<sup>st</sup> is the day for plant and seed exchange
- Will be held in the parking lot of the University Presbyterian Church on a Saturday morning: 10 am to 2 pm
- Will be accepting and offering plants and seed packets made up by the University Heights Art Association
- If you are dividing a plant consider giving it to the Plant and Seed Exchange

### **7. Tool Library:**

- DIY Little Libraries Class with the Foundry
- "Take a Book, Leave a Book" idea
- 2 workshops: Saturday April 30<sup>th</sup> with Prep and Build of the library, Saturday May 14<sup>th</sup> with painting the "Little Library"
- Little Libraries will be auctioned to help pay for a part time staff member for the Foundry and the Tool Library
- Auctioned off to individuals or neighborhood organizations
- Typically installed in the public right away
- Looking to strategically place the "Little Libraries"

### **8. ReTree the District:**

- 170 trees will be planted this weekend
- Meeting at Kapoor Hall on UB South Campus
- Meeting at 9 am on Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup>
- Need help unloading 170 trees on Friday morning on April 15<sup>th</sup> on 9 am
- Need 2 or 3 more pick up trucks for

### **9. Tyler Street Community Garden:**

- Gardening season is beginning!
- Please help with 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> of April
- 3 to 6 pm on Friday
- 10 to 2 pm on Saturday
- Removing raised beds

### **10. UDCDA Programs:**

- Bailey Fights Blight will be taking off on April 23<sup>rd</sup> at noon at the Varsity Theater
- Looking to reach out to the Buffalo Academy of the Visual and Performing Arts
- Kids were walking to school and only seeing buildings boarded up

- They can see flowers, public art
- We can change perceptions
- Working with a mural artist to make it family friendly
- Slots still available for the emergency repair program to help with replacing roofs, electrical issues

### **11. University Heights Business Association**

- 20 paid members
- April 26<sup>th</sup> is the next meeting at the Tool Library
- Will be looking for more people to participate
- How can we take advantage of the opportunities in our neighborhood?
- Looking to reenergize the neighborhood
- Old Molly's Pub:
  - o Person interested in opening a tavern with food
  - o Putting in glass to change image and be more transparent
  - o The owner will be publically announcing next month
  - o Looking for a liquor license
  - o Owner has met with the Councilman
- Third Base job has been stopped by the city
- Looking to find out the status
- The owner is looking to move forward
- The city wants to inspect each phase
- Currently there is a standstill
- The plan is not to be a bodega

### **Shooting at the Amherst Hookah Lounge**

- Second branch of the lounge closed down on Elmwood
- Loud music complaint at 6 am by residents in University Heights
- UB has been reached out to get involved but there has not been a reply from Dan Ryan
- Town of Amherst needs to be connected with us because University Plaza impacts us
- Town of Amherst knows that this is the same affiliation

### **Larry – Lives outside of Hertel**

- o Meeting with the Delaware District and University District
- o 60 trees have been effected in the playground area in Shoshone Park
- o Residents are upset
- o Other cities have helped save trees including Rochester
- o City of Buffalo has a "Remove and Replace" program and does not seem willing to remediate them
- o There may be an opportunity to help the city to map out the trees
- o No information available on these trees
- o Please encourage the council and the city parks commissioner to embrace and consider new strategies

- Are there costs available for the injection of the trees? Can run upwards of \$200 per injection. Replacing the tree with removal and replacement can be very expensive
  - Do we treat our mature forest as a resource through historical preservation?
  - We need to convince the city and we need to show people financially will back this
  - Some data on the hands of the forester about the tree, most information is not publically available
  - Can the UHC make a statement
- What about the transfer of disease?
  - Adopt a Tree Program? Stalls the cutting down process
  - Other parks, including Martin Luther King Park

#### **Earth Day is April 22<sup>nd</sup>**

- The city has on their website a list of Earth Day events including Western New York ReTree
- [www.city-buffalo.com](http://www.city-buffalo.com)
- Tours available for recycling centers
- Cazenovia Park on the 23<sup>rd</sup> from 9 am to 12 pm there will be free community shredding of documents, GO Bike drop off, shoe donations

#### **Arab Association of Western New York**

- Coming to let UHC know what is going on in the community
- Works with all of the districts
- Businesses are smaller and family-owned but some could hire locally
- Looking for businesses to be fair and diverse in the community

#### **Water Analysis in Terms of Lead**

- To find water analysis in Buffalo you can speak to Buffalo City Hall
- Buffalo Water Quality on the website
- Individuals can have their water tested for lead and copper from the City
- Consumer Confidence Report can be distributed and mailed by the Buffalo Water Authority

#### **Breakfast Meeting with Councilman and City Hall**

- Good to see what is going around the University District
- There is a lot getting done in the neighborhood
- Very receptive to the Impact Team idea

*Meeting Adjourned at 8:23 pm*

**Next meeting will be May 10, 2016 at GJPCC.**

Please visit [www.ourheights.org](http://www.ourheights.org) for meeting minutes and to learn more about the University Heights Collaborative