



**UNIQUE
DIVERSE
AFFORDABLE**

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

UHC General Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 12, 2016 at 7:00pm

Called to Order at 7:12 pm

Tess Morrissey:

- Just started as UB Director of Community Relations
- Looking forward to meeting with neighbors

Greg Herzog:

- Proposing to open a restaurant and tavern
- Hoping to open southern twist bourbon bar
- Interior and exterior is being redone
- Estimated opening looking at Mid June/July
- Plans for patio in parking lot
- Live music will come to and end at around 1 am
- Thursday and Fridays are possible days
- Push out towards the window will open up and light the space

Third Base Business Update:

- Kent is a managing partner of the LLC
 - o Back on for renting
 - o Big building down to the studs with all new plumbing
 - o Looking for new tenant
 - o 3,000 square feet
 - o There have been seven different renovations since 1920
 - o Has no idea what will go in the place
 - o First qualified person with written plans will get lease
 - o Looking for a franchise of Spot
 - o 607-240-7509 - Kent Brink
 - o Willing to strike any deal that makes sense for the community
- Senior citizens live on the street

Zombie Properties Complaint Form:

- Abandoned homes where the banks are reluctant to bring to foreclosure
- Banks lose money

- Housing inspectors are overloaded
- 31 West Northrup has been abandoned
- Will be taking copies the third Monday of this month
- Petitions are important to resolving the zombie houses
- If you have a zombie house within 1/8 of a mile your property values will decrease
- Mickey: Times are changing in the Heights and we are taking care of the blighted properties
- Jim would like to form a task force but he's not an organizational guy
- Possibly bringing this issue with housing task force
- Committee meeting at 6 pm on Wednesday May 18th at the University Heights CoLab open to the community

Recent Homes Sales:

- Fred:
 - o 2 houses sold in the Heights
 - o Both are going to be student rentals
 - o We need to make sure that the owner is introduced to the property in a way that has a high standard
 - o 311 is the avenue which you utilize to complain about a property: the inspections and the city will be held accountable with these
- Mickey:
 - o Group of landlords are working on their properties and looking to get the blighted properties to comply
- CPO (A. Threats)
 - o Detail cars are supposed to address quality of life issues
 - o Police write citations to these particular addresses
 - o City ordinances on a list
 - o Police actively hand out these citations
 - o The citation is a fine of about \$52 and up, this can be doubled and sent to the landlord's home
 - o Garbage cans cannot be in the front of the house

Linear Park/Rail Trail Cleanup – May 15th:

- Almost completed according to the engineers
- Raising property values
- To keep it gorgeous we are looking to do clean ups
- May 15th looking to do a cleanup from 11 am to 1 pm on Sunday
- Cleaning up behind the abutments
- People are taking care of this space
- Every Monday in May from 7:30 to 10:00 am there is free breakfast on the path at the Merrimac abutments
- Tools from the Tool Library will be used to clean up the space
- Article is on the Buffalo Rising website
- 10 to 15,000 looking to be spent on ramp in park
- UHC will be putting up the first 5,000 for a ramp

- Funding is from the money from the Joe Dash funds
- Grade is good for bikes, wheelchairs, etc.

Councilman Wyatt:

- This community is making a difference
- Honored to be a councilman
- No other area can speak to this amount of motivated organization
- Participatory Budgeting would work in this district
- The people power is here
- Hopeful that next year we will have another shot at the participatory budgeting
- June 12th University United Festival will be bringing together the community
- Positive opportunity to let people know what's going on in the neighborhood
- Importance of people getting involved
- Will be at the Rotary Field
- Varsity Theater will be the start of the parade

UB Community Relations Updates

- Matt
- UB on the Green last two Wednesdays of July, first Wednesday of August
- 20th, 27th, August 3rd
- Flier to be distributed at the next meeting
- Last year there was organizations, music, arts and culture, and veteran services

Updates:

Gary Lobley:

- Custard Northrup Block Club
- Empower young kids to control their environment
- Hosting a recycling party: June 12th

Garden Walk:

- May 21st 10 am to 2 pm there will be a seed exchange
- Bring a plant, take a plant
- July 16th there will be the Garden Walk
- Go on ourheights.org to sign up
- There will be a party the night before
- Chosen the winners for the Christine Brooks garden grant
- 2 winners from the neighborhood

Tool Library:

- DIY Little Libraries
- 14 frames were built at the Foundry
- Little Libraries will be improved this Saturday at The Foundry
- Looking for materials (clapboard, wood, shingles, etc.)
- From 10 am to 2 pm the Little Libraries will be finished
- Bailey Fights Blight meeting on June 4th will be with Nick Miller
- Arts and Crafts at the meeting to discuss the two buildings

CoLab:

- National Bike Week
- Free tune up bike workshops this month on May 13th from 5 to 7 pm
- May 23rd from 5 to 7 pm DIY bike resources for local bike enthusiasts
- Healthy Living Lecture on May 19th at 6:30 pm
- May 21st tree pruning techniques at 10 am (part of four part series with ReTree)
- Some of the trees look like they are dead but they aren't dead: Late bloomers
- Survival rate is 80 percent
 - o Mickey:
 - Community driven IMPACT Team will be used to address these issues

Tyler Street Community Garden

- No community beds have been built
- More lumber will be used to make beds
- 5 to 7 pm this Friday
- 73 Tyler Street Community Garden at the corner of Bruce and Tyler

Officer Threats:

- Police officer exam will be offered
- Hiring blitz ages 19 to 35
- There will be a stress on community policing in Erie County with retirements
- Educational requirements is a high school and GED
- Must be a City of Buffalo resident
- Fee for applying
- Application deadline is Friday, May 13th

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm

Next meeting will be June 14, 2016 at GJPCC.

Please visit www.ourheights.org for meeting minutes and to learn more about the University Heights Collaborative