



**UNIQUE  
DIVERSE  
AFFORDABLE**

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

September 8, 2015

## **UHC General Meeting Minutes**

- I. Proposal of a petition:
  - There is no handicap access to Shoshone
  - Mickey: there is a need for a public petition for councilman which will need signatures by the general body
  - Candy said that it will finish two paths by end of October
- II. School 63:
  - Jim presented about the planning board meeting
  - There will be 45 converted apartments
  - The grass side will be converted into a L-shaped parking lot
  - Minnesota Block club is in favor of the project
  - There will be no swimming pool or gym in the facility
  - Residents will make between 30k-40k
  - The structure will be eligible for tax credit for historical significance
  - Lexington Co-Op buying building next to it. It will be 1 story.
- III. CoLab:
  - New partnership formed with the Center for Occupational and Environmental Medicine (COEM) at ECMC
  - Updated classes on CoLab website calendar, including future classes with PUSH
- IV. UHTL:
  - There are positives happening in the UH community despite bad press
  - ReTree will be working with honor students and Academies
  - Planting happening on November 7
- V. Tyler Street Garden
  - On September 19<sup>th</sup> there will be a class on how to move forward with growing season
- VI. Uptown Theater:
  - There is continuous rehab and construction
  - Located at 3162 Bailey Avenue, it is intended to become a strong neighborhood asset
  - The UDCDA Housing will be offering financial assistance with roof replacement and siding
  - The next Main Street Business Association meeting will be in the Steer on the 29<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm
- VII. Garden Walk:
  - Plant and seed exchange at the farmer's market
  - Seeds packaged by University Heights Arts Association

- Money was planted for the memorial of Christine Brooks
- The remaining money from the collection will be used as grants for those who would like to start or improve their own gardens

VIII. Councilman Wyatt:

- There will be a Solar City jobs information session in October in the Diefendorf Annex

IX. UB on the Green/Neighbors Day

- Taking place at 5 o'clock on Friday, September 11
- Serves as a prime opportunity to get to know neighbors
- Students who don't feel anonymous will be less likely to trash the community
- Running of the Bulls at 4:30 pm
- Chicago Authority Band at 5:00 pm
- Located in front of Hayes Hall

X. House Parties:

- Community members concerned about safety of neighborhood and residents
- On the first weekend, police cracked down more strongly, according to Mickey
- Landlords must take an active role in addressing parties in their homes
  - i. Chief Mensa:
    1. Mensa is responsible for University Heights
    2. There must be a proactive role on the part of the police
    3. The community's quality of life is being put at risk
    4. Students are at risk of binge drinking and houses of catching on fire
    5. Designated police detail are in community during party hours
    6. There is no noise ordinance – always call 911 if issues arise
    7. There is a "Mardi Gras effect"
    8. Police are talking with UB police to make sure the effort is shared
    9. Councilman Wyatt has been huge help
    10. Police working with building and fire inspectors
  - ii. Resident:
    1. Community members should not wait until 3 am to call with issues
    2. Whenever groups of kids are seen together, the police should be called
    3. Landlord should be responsible for trash collection
  - iii. Ben Swensky:
    1. The atmosphere on the street is a building party atmosphere
    2. There must be early intervention around 9/10 pm
    3. Just moved to the neighborhood and is surprised by the lack of student acknowledgement of their neighbors
    4. We need to develop relationships with students
  - iv. Gail:
    1. Concerned that UB on the Green will turn into partying
    2. Questioned how involved UB is with police
  - v. Gary:
    1. Parties have been getting better
    2. Andy has purchased homes and been a great advocate for the community, serving as an example of taking responsibility of tenants and properties

vi. Resident:

1. Group of friends have brainstormed solutions:
  - a. Limit bus frequency on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays
  - b. UB police should be stationed at the bus stops to check passenger's id's and arrest underage drinkers
  - c. Students need to be detained and disciplined
  - d. The "Welcome Back" party should be moved to North Campus, as should all frat houses
  - e. Greek houses should be reviewed
  - f. As a neighborhood we should control crowds, call 911, check id's, issue tickets and take pictures of id's
  - g. There should be a wall of shame for students
  - h. Students should clean neighborhoods the day after partying
  - i. There must be a defined Code of Conduct for off campus behavior
  - j. Bill Yunkey possibly can negotiate a flat rate for cab fare
  - k. The UHC should have Citizen Patrol of 3+ people
  - l. Social media should be monitored to keep up with and dismantle possible disturbances
  - m. Police should enforce an open container law
  - n. Police should have a satellite location
  - o. Police should retrieve id's
  - p. Police should publicize those arrested
  - q. Landlords need to be held accountable by police
  - r. Parents should be told by police when their child is acting poorly

vii. Fred:

1. A housing court spreadsheet has been made with information of all landlords and residents who have been found to have disruptive parties
2. If UB students are on the list a second time, then landlords must vacate them and UB will need to find them another place to live
3. This process is viable because so far there have been no repeat offenders.

viii. Dan from UB

1. Busses have influx at party sites
2. Frats and sororities are the big problem, with the worst offenders being banned frats
3. Officers stopped students from leaving a party because they were wearing the letters of a banned group
4. Of 16 arrests, 12 were university students and 23 were suspended
5. Police hard work and action will change student behavior but there are limits to behavior
6. Students rely on busses
7. Without busses there is a higher chance of DWI
8. Students will attend parties regardless because it's the "cool thing" to do

9. There are college-sponsored events like Late Night UB but students often choose partying over these
  10. There needs to be behavior modification
  11. If a student has not followed the law then their card may not work on bus – possible solution?
- ix. Mickey
1. The university needs to compromise
  2. Less and slower influx of busses would make the parties easier to manage
- x. Todd Krenick:
1. Moved into neighborhood 15 years ago
  2. UHC should go on observant walk and talk to neighbors and students
  3. A trained mediator, Krenick believed there should be more student and neighborhood engagement
  4. Students do positively contribute to the neighborhood and help small businesses
  5. There is so much garbage that the resident has issues walking his dog on the sidewalk
  6. There must be reparations where students talk with the community and clean up after the parties
- xi. George Smith Bower:
1. We need to look at the Albany program and how they dealt with student partiers
  2. Albany brought together the stakeholders: police, administrators and students
  3. There is a need for a task force
  4. We need to demand partnerships from UB – no longer take no for an answer
  5. UB is a tax-funded, public university and has a responsibility to listen to community concerns
- xii. Linda:
1. How can we make on-campus activities more interesting?
- xiii. Councilman:
1. UB does not listen to community concerns
  2. There must be a compromise between UB and community
  3. Landlords need to evict students who are having parties
  4. Students cannot disrespect neighborhood but should be safe
  5. We need to work as a group respectfully to solve this issue

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, October 13, 2015 at 7:00pm***