

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

April Meeting

4/26/16 6:30 PM

Present: Paul Neubecker, Mike Miranda, Jr., Mickey Vertino, Linda Garwol, Ann Marie Ranger, Larry Kinney, Bob Leong, Garry Codick

Membership Drive

- Aim to have 20 paid members before we have elections
- Q: Voting electronically for elections for people that can't attend the meetings?
 - Yes, this will help broaden member
- What sort of organization do we want the business association to take?
 - Executive board, board members, voting members
- Who would be interested in stepping up as leader?
- What is the purpose of the Association?
 - Get organized and help advocate for the neighborhood
 - Make Main Street more walkable and attractive
 - An opportunity to garner influence
 - Great bones but room for improvement
 - This neighborhood could be targeted to young professionals
 - Getting people together in a room talking - collaboration, knowledge sharing
 - Relationships with the city - public works, parks, etc.
 - Changing people's perceptions about the neighborhood - more than the stigma people hear in the news
 - Positive things happening in the community
 - Building on things like the rehabilitation of Parkside Candy
- Sr. Jeremy has been trying to get the Main Street Business Association running for years
- Talked to the Executive Director of the EVA - how did they get organized?
 - Opportunities for collaboration
- Leverage the work of the UHC, but the Association is another opportunity to have a voice that is more pro-development. See the students as a resource that can benefit the neighborhood.
- Vet new businesses to the Business Association
- UHAA serves not only the University Heights but also the entire region - everyone has their own niche
- Dash's example - can't force someone to run a business at a loss
 - More of a balanced argument from the community

UB on the Green SAVE THE DATES

- 7/20, 7/27, 8/3
- Community Health Fair on 7/20

Main Street Spring Cleanup

- Cleanup on May 7th - UHC and Business Association to split the cost of mulch
- Students from UB will be helping to clean Main Street and mulch tree pits

Information Kiosk

- Kiosk at Winspear and Main installed as part of the Main Street reconstruction project
- Needs repair/new plexiglass front
- Opportunity for neighborhood signage/wayfinding map of the business district
- Businesses who are members should be listed in the information kiosk
- Should use lexan as replacement material

UHAA Events

- May 7th - Buffalo Minimizer Faire Buffalo Museum of Science
- Art Activities Sunday, June 12th - University United Festival
- Plant and Seed Exchange - May 21st
- August 13th - UHAA Festival 11AM - 6PM
- Sculpture Exhibition - poetry readings and new exhibits
- If you have an empty lot that you would like something done - UHAA would like to talk to you about it - 3-dimensional piece of art
- Cordova and LaSalle - opportunity there?
- Art in Linear Park/Rails to Trails

New Business

- Image is what helps transform a neighborhood
- Invite Carly Battin to speak at the next meeting
- Collaborate with Hertel commercial strip
- Get more people in the room for the meeting and get some nominations
- Invite police reps and councilmembers
- What is going on with Third Base?
 - Owners were called on the appearance of the building - there was activity there the other day
- Area gets a bad rap - bar business isn't bringing the kids in. Now they're just roaming around the neighborhood
- Give students options on a commercial strip and take them out of the residential areas

Next Meeting

- 4th Tuesday of every month at 6PM (5/24/16)

Next meeting will be **May 24, 2016 at 6:00PM** at the CoLab located at 9 W. Northrup Place.

Please visit www.ourheights.org/mainstreetbiz for meeting minutes and to learn more about the Business Association