

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

August Meeting

8/23/16 6:00 PM

Present: Darren Cotton, Tess Morrissey, Sal, Linda Garwol, Mickey Vertino, Paul Neubecker

Better Buffalo Fund

- Main Street application was not funded
- Bailey Avenue will receive \$300,000 for facade improvements and building renovations
- Positive development for University District
- Possibility of a third round of the Better Buffalo Fund - Main Street can reapply

ReTree the District

- Next planting date is November 5th with practice planting scheduled for October 29th - will plant an additional 215 trees which will hit ReTree the District's 1,000 trees
- Emergen-Tree Watering Campaign to buy gator bags - Motion to encumber \$250
 - Will put to electronic vote

VISTA Members

- City aiming to get volunteers on the ground by October
- One VISTA at the Tool Library and one at 995 Kensington Avenue
- Potential to house VISTAs on building on Bailey Avenue
- VISTAs are focused on organizing - as opposed to direct service
- Has to fit into the goals of the VISTA program
 - Reduce poverty (e.g. increase financial literacy, increase homeownership)
 - Building sustainability - when the VISTA leaves, organizations can continue on
- City was granted enough funding for three years
- Domestic version of the Peace Corps
 - Newly graduated, retired people, people on gap year
- Not sure about the interview process
- VISTAs will apply to particular organizations (e.g. Tool Library and Business Associations)
- National Program - part of AmeriCorps
 - No salary, but a living stipend - service opportunity to help build capacity in communities
- UB was originally thinking about putting in a VISTA application, the TL was looking for a VISTA placement - City was also doing the same thing
 - City was granted funding through National Service Corporation
- City originally asked for four VISTA to be based out of City Hall - National VISTA contact was from Buffalo - opportunity to apply for more
- Pilot program in Buffalo
- Q: opportunity for additional members to be placed in neighborhood after first year?

- Entrepreneurship/small business development - would a VISTA be able to run something similar to the West Side Bazaar

Custom Bike Racks

- Redesigned bike racks to create a more unified look instead of business-based design
- Something that is more uniquely branded for the neighborhood
- Could be used as part of streetscape funding that come with Main Street grants
- Could be used on Bailey Avenue as well
- Look into pricing

Mobile Watering System

- Golf cart and pull along cart with 55 gallon drum
- System with pump
- Look at example of automated watering system at the community garden - generating electricity while pumping water
- City might offer us a piece of equipment - all terrain vehicle
- Use it to maintain Linear Park / Rails to Trails

Parking Benefits

- Controversy on Hertel
- Would have to make sure it's an inclusive process
- Opportunity to raise funds to improve streetscape
- Some revenue from one of the lots

Main Street streetlight pole repair

- No money to paint the poles
- Can't use volunteers because of issues with unions
- Look into what kind of paint to use on the poles

School of Architecture and Planning

- Neighborhood plan for the South Campus neighborhood
- Bob Reger will be working with architect to help organize around neighborhood planning
- Ciminelli as a potential partner?