



Beasley Neighbourhood Association

Meeting Agenda - February 8, 2017 | 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm | Beasley Community Centre

HPS Updates - Gino Ciarmoli

- 1 residential break and enter - arrest made
- 1 report of graffiti - Action officers are aware - increasing patrols
- 10 traffic accidents
- No new updates in the Mary St Shootings and car fire - it's still in the hands of the criminal investigation bureau
- Officers will be coming by the Winterfest this weekend to interact with the kids

Sobi - Everyone Rides Initiative - Thea Jones

- New program aims to make the Hamilton Bikeshare system equitable - so that it fills in all areas of Hamilton, and provides subsidization - working with individuals to offer free memberships or subsidized membership
- Asked if BNA folks have experienced any barriers to access - one resident shared that they'd experienced a glitch in the system where she paid for a month of membership when she wasn't able to use the bike (was rectified by contacting customer service)
- Shared they're also hoping to create options to pay for bikeshare without a credit card
- BNA member noted that the expansion of bikeshare programs and bikeable neighbourhoods is part of the new Beasley Plan
- Thea brought a map so residents could identify where they want to see more bikeshare hubs around the city - will be available online as well

Displacement Project - Cassandra Roach

- Providing free training for tenants rights in the Beasley Neighbourhoods - helping new Canadians who are encountering displacement due to gentrification
- The training is for service providers and community leaders who support new Canadians in our neighbourhood

Good Shepherd - Venture Centre Community Hub - Mark Tennant

- Sharing about their outreach programs - Legal Aid, OW, ODSP, Literacy Hamilton, and many others - you don't have to be a food bank recipient to attend, the programs are available to anyone who needs to access these programs in a convenient location
- Shared as well that they have a surplus of clothing in the centre, and would like input or ideas on how to distribute that clothing to people in need but who aren't accessing the centre

Rebecca St. Development - David Premi

- Sharing a new development idea that they want feedback on from the neighbourhood regarding the Core Urban Property on Rebecca St
- They are proposing a highrise residential property on the property (will require a height variance, but have done studies that the shade lines would not impact anything but the surrounding parking lots - there's no confirmation of the height at this point)

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- Proposed first floor commercial spaces
- Potential for public parking in the new development that would alleviate some of the stress of removing the parking in the John/Rebecca park project
- Suggestion of pedestrianizing the John/Rebecca block so the park space comes right up to their development
- Exploring large format screen on face of building that could project images for the park
- Residents commented that density in the area is a positive, and reducing parking lots is positive - requested consideration regarding affordable units considering the proximity to the downtown core and the services there, and how we want to see current downtown residents able to remain in their neighbourhoods
- Dale Mugford entered into discussion with the owner and developer to ask if the development is spurred on by the projected park - they agreed that the potential of fronting on the park was part of the appeal to purchasing the property
- Resident shared thanks for them coming to share their presentation with us and their desire to keep us informed
- Resident asked that the suggested pedestrianized area be open to bikes
- BNA Exec member shared that we are generally interested in following and learning more about this development - we generally feel that modest variances to height for the building would be a reasonable accommodation when it comes with increased density and promotion of the John/Rebecca park

Lead Awareness Project Update - Jo-Ann Salci

- Raising awareness about lead in homes and in the environment around homes - Kids under 7 are most susceptible to the lead neurotoxin - the BNA supported and gave input to their project over the past year - helped them translate materials into relevant languages for the neighbourhood
- Results of the project were that over 100 filters given out in the Beasley neighbourhood
- They set up at various Beasley events and community hubs and provided residents with water filters (if they lived in an older house and had children under 7)
- Did some sessions with Wesley, Venture Centre, Urban Core to train them in how to educate residents and continue to give out filters

Equal Wards Now - Matt Jelly

- The status quo in Hamilton right now is 15 municipal wards that are represented by one Councillor and one vote in council - the problem is that the ward populations in each ward are not equal and consistent - there's an inequality between wards meaning that the more densely populated wards are under-represented (in some cases 7 to 1)
- The City Council recently conducted community consultations (to the cost of \$300,000) to review the ward boundaries which went back to council with a report of two different recommendations of redrawn ward boundaries - council chose to reject these representations
- As of tonight, council voted to pass a new ward boundary structure that doesn't alter the previous boundaries in more than minor/incidental ways - there is concern though that rather than act to restructure at this time, council will try to stall or put off establishing new ward boundaries/bylaw until after the next municipal election so that the sitting councillors don't have to face risks to re-election due to re-drawn boundaries

- (at the potential cost of thousands of dollars in lawyer costs)
- Matt is collecting signatures for a petition to ask the Ontario Municipal Board to force City Council to adopt new ward boundaries by the 2018 municipal election which are reasonably equal in population - in addition, those who submit concerns to the OMB are granted permission to attend any reviews conducted by them - the OMB requires wards to be within 25% of equal representation within the municipality
- For more info, and to find somewhere to sign the petition, go to www.facebook.com/equalwardsnow
- Question from attendee - asked if there's precedent of this sort of issue in other municipalities - Matt answered that Toronto, London, and other areas have had boundaries reviews in the past, and the OMB has been consistent in implementing the equal ward boundary requirements
- Comment from Mike Borelli - equal representation is a basic democratic right that the BNA should support, and even though the population of Ward 2 (of which Beasley is a part of) is within 25% of being equally represented, there are other Wards that are vastly not equally represented, and we should support their right to have equal representation - members voted, all members were in favour of supporting Equal Wards Now

Club 77/Park Violence Update - Dale Mugford

- Ongoing process towards curbing the violence that occurs at Club 77 - residents are family members of victims of crime that occurred at the club have been pushing the city to investigate the instances of violence, and putting restrictions on the Club
- They are also strongly pushing for the city's planned park on that property (they own the parking lot but need to purchase the building/land that the Club is on in order to get the planned park developed) - one of the current obstacles is that the city is having some trouble finding the funds needed to buy the Club, and the value of that property is only going to increase as real estate values go up, and adjacent properties are developed - the owners of the club have issued a letter to the city stating that they're willing to sell
- Visit Parktheviolence.ca for more info, and to sign the petition
- Dale also suggested emailing both Jason.farr@hamilton.ca, jason.thorn@hamilton.ca to share our thoughts about the park development and the purchase of the Club property

Hydro One Elgin TS Project Update - Mike Borelli

- Rebuilding the Hydro Station adjacent to the School/Community Centre
- If anyone has any objections to the project or the plans, they need to speak up and share their concerns with Mike (not many people have come forward with concerns thus far)
- BNA is asking them to support some BNA functions financially, but beyond that, if anyone has suggestions of ways Hydro One could engage with the neighbourhood, please do!

Heritage Update - Carol

- Council has recently voted to demolish 2 buildings in the Gore, and to only retain the facade of one building - the BNA supported Friends of the Gore in a delegation asking the city to preserve these buildings, but ultimately the decision seemed to have been

made beforehand - nevertheless, Carol expressed thanks for our support, and advocated that in the future, we not support any heritage buildings being demolished in the city going forward and that there be some consideration of preserving the facades/streetscapes of heritage buildings in our neighbourhood

- Encouraged people to read the article 'Gutting the Gore' in Urbanicity
- Carol would like to do another expanded project on the Beasley Heritage Site map for the upcoming Doors Open - would like to apply for a small grant to accomplish this

Upcoming AGM in April

- The BNA Executive is encouraging members of the neighbourhood to start thinking about ways they could join and support the BNA - we're always looking for more people to represent the neighbourhood! Come talk to any current Exec members to learn more

Neighbourhood Hoops

- Neighbourhood Hoops has 80 kids registered in Beasley, and 300 across the City
- They had their trip to McMaster this past Saturday with almost 400 people in attendance to visit the basketball game

Simone Hall Kitchen Project

- Have been working hard to get the kitchen redesign complete (through funds from PB and Jason Farr)
- Construction of the kitchen will be starting in May (from May-Sept the centre will not be accessible) - the people who already use the space will be working with the city and Wesley to secure spaces for everyone to use in the New BCC and other surrounding community spaces

Upcoming BNA Meetings:

- Beasley Neighbourhood Association Meeting - **Wed. March 8, 2017 - 7pm** - New BCC
- Beasley Winterfest! - **Sun. February 19, 2017** - 2-4pm - Beasley Park (set-up is around 11am if anyone wants to come help decorate)

Upcoming Community Events:

- Useful Knowledge Society of Hamilton Presentation - Tues. March 7, 2017 - 7pm - AGH Design Annex (118 James St. N.) - "Preparing for Intensification"
- Try Hamilton has event this Saturday from 11-5pm - showcasing some of the properties in the area that are for lease and for purchase
- The Tool Library is in partnership with Restoration Project and PATH Employment to get 100 more ramps in the city - getting materials donated so the final cost will be \$99 - if you know of any property that needs a ramp, email rampable@gmail.com
- Wesley has a March Break camp coming up - it's free, and there are about 15 spots left