



Beasley Neighbourhood Association

Meeting Minutes - March 8, 2017 | 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm | Beasley Community Centre

HPS Updates - Read by: Allison

- Robberies - 1 (targeted) - arrest made
- Commercial B&E - 0
- Residential B&E - 2
- Traffic - 2
- Reported Graffiti - 0
- Stolen Autos - 0
- Theft from Auto - 0

Individuals who have been targeted in the shootings on Mary Street have moved elsewhere, and there is an increase of plainclothes officers in the immediate area (Reported by Joey Coleman)

Beasley Heritage Updates - Carol Priamo

- Save the Gore Campaign - Friends of the Gore:
 - Shared powerpoint presentation at past BNA and GALA meetings re: buildings that are set to be demolished in Gore Park
 - Launched Heritage Watch Hamilton website last week
 - Had an online petition at change.org - have over 800 signatures now (hoping for 1000) - want to take it to mayor, councillors, MPP's, Ontario Heritage Trust
 - Want to produce lawn signs 'Save the Gore Heritage' and handed out flyers to post in public spaces
- Beasley Walking Tour Maps would be a great starting point for this year's Open Doors - would like to improve the the current brochure/map to be used - will bring a proof of it to the next BNA meeting in April
 - Would like to print 1000 brochures for Open Doors, and get them to all of the Open Doors sites - would like to distribute them at Art Crawl in May as well
 - Need to apply for a small project grant to cover the cost of this - BNA members voted in favour of this, and Carol to connect with Brandon

Protocol for Gender Identity and Gender Expression

- The City of Hamilton just approved protocol for gender identity and expression that ensures that all individuals have the right to access gender segregated facilities in accordance with the self-identified gender identity
- A lot of work on this was done by BNA member and resident, Autumn Getty - congrats, and thank you!

Greenwin - John/Robert Building Update - Larry Di Ianni

- In January Greenwin attended our meeting to share info on their minor variance application
- They've been working on some of the concerns that were brought up at that meeting
 - Had informal conversations with residents and did a resident survey (got 44 residents from one building, and 36 residents from the other building)

- They're going to get a Somali interpreter to help address some communications issues with residents and to ensure residents are comfortable coming forward
- Committed to giving one month's notice before submitting a notice of adjustment
 - Anticipate this will be on the committee of adjustment agenda near the end of April - will share the exact date once confirmed
- Issue of 3 bedroom apartments - are hoping to retain as many 3 bedroom units as possible (currently planning to retain 10 - an increase from the original 0) - they hope this is a pleasant surprise that they've taken our concern seriously and have done their best to respond to it
- Residents shared appreciation for the fact that Greenwin seems to have responded to concerns, and especially to doing culturally appropriate outreach in the building
- There was a question of how many 3 bedroom units are currently in the building before redevelopment? How many is it losing? (It's great that 10 will be kept, but how many will not be kept?) - issue of affordability was brought up as well - we want to be sure those family units are affordable to families and that this doesn't cause economic displacement
- Joey Coleman is willing to represent the BNA at the committee of adjustment meeting - would like the BNA to have a position he can espouse so that he is fully representing the complete community in this way
 - Resident shared that we need to have a discussion about our position on this at a future meeting when representatives of Greenwin aren't present - we know the property is increasing in value, but in creating new units, they'll also be increasing their earnings, and so this bias needs to be taken into account

BCCAT Monthly Updates - Jesse Williamson

- Numbers in the building are up, more people are using the public space, and attending the community programs - will share exact stats soon
- New BCC calendar to better inform community of what's happening in the building
- Simone Hall Kitchen - May 1st construction will start - they've identified spaces for current users of Simone Hall to move to during the renovations
- Would love to see more resident involvement with the BCCAT - they can adjust meeting times to serve the needs of residents - ask Jesse for more info
- Neighbourhood Hoops is up and running for the year - 300 youth across the city, and 81 in the Beasley neighbourhood specifically - a really awesome development of this year is that more and more parents are coming out to watch games become involved

Future BNA Event - Corn Roast? - Matt Thompson

- Winterfest was incredibly successful - People loved the community campfire at Winterfest
- Possibility of doing a corn roast and community campfire in the late summer (we need to plan ahead with applications for permits, etc)
- Not sure of the schedule for the redevelopment of Beasley Park this summer, so thinking of other locations - the suggestion of having the pop up park at John/Rebecca to host this event - the firefighters professional association (across the street) may also be interested in supporting this event
- Jesse reminded us that if held on city property, the recreation dept can cover insurance
- Talk to Matt after the meeting about pursuing this idea

[Dis]placement Project - Cassandra Roach

- Reminding people about workshops coming up this spring - info is on our facebook page

Emergency Preparedness - Connie

- Emergency Manager at City of Hamilton - want to help the Beasley community prepare for emergencies - there are a number of hazards in the city of Hamilton - close to areas where there may be industrial accidents - if something were to happen like in Fort Mac, where people literally had 3 minutes to evacuate their homes, would people be prepared?
- What if, in another turn of event, something happened where you couldn't leave your home for a number of days (or were without power for a number of days?) - are people prepared with food and water, and are they prepared for all weather conditions?
- Resident expressed that we're an areas of high needs - many of the vulnerable people in the community cannot fend for themselves, they often cannot afford to prepare expensive items in advance (ie, extra medication) - also, many people have nowhere to go if they're evacuated, and little means to get there - the city needs to be able to provide transportation and open up community shelters (designated sites), and to offer assistance to individuals who have mobility issues (Connie did share that the city does have a plan in place of HSR buses showing up as temporary shelter/transportation, and also designated sites for longer-term shelter)

Ward 2 Community Council Updates (School Closures & Icy Sidewalks) - Mike Borelli

- School Closures - potential closing of Hess St School - some residents have pointed out that this may not be the right school to close - there's a motion going around to keep all 9 schools in Ward 2 open - Mike can draft a letter to the HWDSB - it may not be best to favour one school rather than another, but to instead support all schools staying open - members voted in favour of Mike writing this letter
- Rumors of a plan to close Hess and Strathcona schools, and rebuild a joint school on the John A MacDonald site in the future
- The most under-enrolled schools in the area are Cathy Weaver and Dr. Davey - it's not because people don't want to come here, but because they're the biggest and newest schools, and programs of choice (ie, French Immersion) are at older schools
- Of note: the schools in higher economic areas are the ones that happen to have the programs of choice, and are not being considered for closure - the schools in lower-economic areas are the ones on the chopping block
- There's also a suggestion towards the city taking back responsibility for clearing sidewalks rather than relying on the bylaw requiring residents to clear the snow in front of their properties - there are only 2 bylaw officers responsibility for enforcing this bylaw across the whole city, and they only respond to complaints - because of this issue being brought up, the question is whether we should write a letter to the city to do a bylaw review on the strengths and weaknesses - BNA members were in favour

Pop Up Park - John/Rebecca - Mike Borelli

- Councillor Farr and Jason Thorne contacted the BNA about this idea - we're seeing it as a 'foot in the door' of getting a permanent park in this location - even though the plan is to start on the permanent park in 2018, we'd love to have something started as a pop-up as a place-marker for the future

- Will convert 18 parking spots in the current lot- likely the area directly across from the Fire Station- hope for benches, planters, seating area
- Transform the space in time for summer so that people along King William have a space to sit and enjoy and will get people thinking of the space as a park and what it could be like in the future - the pop up would last for the whole summer - it would be good to find ways to animate the space (corn roast would be a great event) - making it an open doors site? Community gardens? Raised beds? Weekly soccer games? Hammocks! Umbrellas, recliners - foodtrucks! Wifi! - take it to the young architects of Hamilton group for planning ideas
- For those who are interested in helping plan this, please contact Mike to be added to a mailing list

Announcements

- CitySchool by Mohawk is offering a course on analyzing video games - March 21st - offering digital photojournalism out of the public library starting on June 20th
- Hydro One will be starting work as of March Break - they can share notices of information with anyone who is interested
- March Break program as Welsey that is currently full, with a waiting list - registrations for the summer kids program will be out in April