

GBA Steering Committee Minutes 3.29.2017

- I. Introductions - brief news and updates shared by steering committee members. Bob Hoyt notes that Amport may be interested in joining the steering committee. Local business person Liam Flynn also attended and greeted the group - also shared concerns about the new Methadone Clinic slated for Brooklyn's mainstreet. Representative from County Executive Schuh's office announced a rat abatement program launching on April 10th. Fran Schmidt announced a hiring event on April 6th with 40 companies set to attend.
- II. Minutes from 2.22.2017 read by Greg Sawtell and approved by steering committee
- III. Treasure report from Dan McGinty - no new funds and no expenses to report.

--At this point Larry Gill shared an interaction with a resident who wasn't aware of GBA - and in so many words expressed doubt about our ability to make an impact. This led to a discussion about the need for the GBA to begin to define itself through action and clear communication. This provided a transition to begin report backs from each of the task forces.

IV. Review of immediate term objectives

V. Task Force reports (please consult full reports in the GBA google drive)

- a. Community engagement reported on by Greg, Laurie and Larry. Full report available here: . Some discussion of sharing of lists and contacts across organizations working in the community - need to refine how this will happen. This led to discussion of databases and the need to start using one soon to build capacity for growth of the organization. Next step is to get price quotes for database/website tools for GBA use.
- b. Mary presented on the Economic Development Taskforce. Ira Kowler presented a document on some paths for the steering committee to consider regarding the facade improvement program. Dante de Tablan then introduced some ideas and offered to provide examples/research regarding the use of increasing the tree coverage of a community as an element that helps reduce crime/violence - as well as the use of GIS mapping regarding a website that would serve as a marketing tool for attracting new residents (example sent out after the mtg available here: <http://www.gisplanning.com/CaseStudies/featured.html>). Michael Dorsey then noted the number of trees that were planted in the communities last year - discussion about how to build on existing effort ensued.
- c. Erin then shared on the Housing task force - noted that we had a mix of people on the steering committee as well as local residents and others who are not. Noted the Community Land Trust as a high priority that needs assistance and support to get going. Also noted the need for technical assistance with the block improvement funds - lots of ideas may come forth from residents but the need to support them could become quite significant. Michael Furbish then raised the idea of pooling the Block improvement resources to fund a consensus idea to a) make a bigger impact with a focus and b) reduce the need to chase technical assistance after lots of smaller projects.

- d. Mike Dorsey shared the Quality of Life task force discussion - expressed the need for input from people who participated in the task force leading up to the first BRNI proposal. The methadone clinic was raised as a quality of life and public health issue. Laurie raised ideas regarding art/light installations to align with Light City's expansion into communities. Greg raised the issue from the Vision document regarding truck traffic as a "big issue" for the task force to not lose sight of - noting it will take long term thinking and planning to achieve results.
- e. Jan Eveland presented on the Transportation task force noting that no money is set aside for transportation projects. Jan noted that the Bike Share program is unlikely to be extended to our communities. Full report available here:
- f. Dante shared on the Youth and Education task force - sharing a review of the athletic complex and the current pursuit of a state bond bill to fund lighting at the stadium.

VI. GBA staffing: Michael Furbish presented on our current situation identifying the need to hire staff to support our process of creating and submitting the 2nd BRNI application (due in late June but needs to start ASAP). We have 85K in operational funds (of which around 46K go to strong city) - 35K left for staffing (perhaps some for communications needs - website/database). Priority for using these limited funds seems to be - #1 marshalling the effort to submit a powerful BRNI application with the time we have remaining and #2 work on raising funds to expand our operating budget beyond the limited amount we have now. Proposal was put forward which the steering committee adopted for the officers to swiftly conduct a search for suitable candidates for the position of consultant/project manager to help carry us through this next phase.

Next Steps:

- Coordinate task force meeting dates
- Steering Committee to meet again on April 26th 4-6pm (CAC) -settled on 4th wednesday as regular mtg date.