

**University Heights Collaborative – General Meeting – April 12, 2011**  
*Meeting Minutes*

Details

UHC General Community Meeting  
7 p.m.  
Gloria J. Parks Community Center

Michaela opened her first meeting as president by reintroducing herself and welcoming the community. She also introduced Dawn Reed as the new Secretary for the UHC Board.

Michaela introduced University District Common Council Member Bonnie Russell. Bonnie introduced her new staff member Karen who resides on Niagara Fall Boulevard. Bonnie then presented a check of \$5,000 to the University Community Farmers Market. Gail Willsky accepted the check on behalf of the UCFM board. Gail thanked Bonnie for her support and updated the group about the farmers market. The market will run on Saturdays (May 21<sup>st</sup> – October 16<sup>th</sup>) from 8 a.m. – 1p.m. at the corner of Main and Kenmore. All community members are encouraged to visit the market and also participate as volunteers.

Michaela announced the details for UB Getting Dirty: Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. – 1p.m. Requests for projects were already submitted.

Michaela announced that she can be reached by community members at [president@ourheights.org](mailto:president@ourheights.org)

If you see bus shelters with graffiti please contact Tom Losi at [Thomas\\_Losi@nfta.com](mailto:Thomas_Losi@nfta.com)

Darren Cotton gave an update about the Tool Library

- Located at 3083 Main Street – at Lisbon
- Open Saturdays and Sundays from 10 – 2 p.m.
- \$10 annual membership allows you to borrow as many tools as needed
- Currently accepting donations of tools (tax deduction available) as well as projects for area block clubs
- Distributed flyers and brochures for community to post
- Planning a grand opening party for May 14<sup>th</sup>
- Michaela will hold UHC “Office Hours” from 3-5 on Mondays

Michaela read an announcement about the Samuel P. Capen Garden Walk. The Garden Walk committee is currently seeking submissions for original art for the annual poster as well as a logo. Submissions are due by April 30<sup>th</sup>. You can submit your ideas at [capengardenwalk@ourheights.org](mailto:capengardenwalk@ourheights.org) - It is the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Garden Walk. The Garden Walk will be held on Saturday, July 16<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Michaela distributed information about an upcoming plant exchange being held at UB on Monday, June 6<sup>th</sup>.

Linda Garwol distributed information regarding upcoming gardening seminars as well information about the annual perennial sale at Mischler’s beginning April 15<sup>th</sup>.

Randy Atlas gave a treasury report:

General Funds	\$602
UCFM	\$6,014 (includes \$5,000 received that night from BR)
Tool Library	\$10,801
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$17,417</b>

### Open Floor

- Don Wyscoff (sp) from W. Winspear asked about a possible relationship with the Horticulture Department at McKinley High School. Linda Garwol indicated that Tom Mitchell runs the night classes. Don also brought a few additional issues he has in the neighborhood:
  - o Requesting home inspection for all rental properties for things such as electrical, plumbing and alarms
  - o Enforcement of permits and zoning laws
  - o Single houses that change to multi houses should be required to be brought back to original single house
  - o Enforcement of parking – this is parking on lawns, in backyards, near fire hydrants and at dead ends.
- Judge Carney (Housing Court/Larchmont resident) discussed some of the happenings in Housing Court. He assured the community that his office is aware of the concerns the community has with landlords, students, etc. He encouraged residents to call his office with problems. He did indicate that if the backyards are paved then residents can park there. He also indicated that renters have rights just like owners. He encouraged the group to reach out to Kevin Helfer – Parking Commissioner.
- Dave Bradley informed the group about a program that Riverkeepers is sponsoring to help keep storm water from getting into sewers. Dave also asked about the status of the space at 37 Merrimac – the house burned down and now it is an empty lot without any water-absorbing foliage. Fred Brace stated that he believes the owner is settling claims with the insurance company. Fred will reach out to the owner to see if there is the possibility of leasing the space for a community garden. Soil testing will need to be done. Linda Garwol stated that Grass Roots helps with community gardening.
- Ellen Przepasniak from Assemblyman Sam Hoyt’s Office gave an update about PJ Bottoms. Ellen informed the group that the SLA followed procedures and issued a liquor license in January. The Erie County Health Dept issued the health permit in March. Sam’s Office has requested a meeting with the SLA, owner and rep from UHC. Michaela, Dawn Reed and Ray Reichert to attend the meeting. Any further questions can be directed to Ellen at [Ellen@samhoyt.com](mailto:Ellen@samhoyt.com)
- Sharon Green announced that there is a nice house single house for sale at 29 Devereaux Ave for \$89,000. She encouraged everyone to tell their friends
- It was noted that 190 Merrimac is for sale for \$72,900 as part of a cluster sale. Community members are concerned about the increase of cluster sales. Michaela stated that this will be a topic for the Housing and Marketing committees.
- Michaela made an announcement about the Community Police Officers. There will be two officers assigned to the Heights. Currently, two shifts for each district is in the plan. Working on a handbook which will be used by all officers for quality of life issues.
- A reminder was given to all residents to report incidents to 311. By using 311 you are given a confirmation number that you can use for follow-up. 311 calls are reported and action is

- taken. 911 is a county process that dispatches a police response – incidents go on record but may not be reported on.
- The Northrup Block Club reported on the tire slashing. Anyone whose car was vandalized needs to file a report.
  - Fred Brace gave an update on Housing Court. He discussed the Rental Registry Law – which helps to outline solutions. The challenge is that it is not being enforced to its greatest degree. The permits and inspections department has struggled with budget and staff cuts. In the University District, the Rental Registry Task Force has been working to formulate plans to bring landlords to court. 65 of the top problem-properties are owned by the top 10 landlords in the system. There will be a City inspection sweep over the next few weeks looking for any non-permitted work. If you see parking/qol issues and can get the tag number of a UB student parking tag that number can be traced and possible action against the student can take place through the UB judiciary system.
  - UBPD alerted attendees about two different flash mob incidents on a Friday night. A reminder to call police if you see suspicious activity.

**Next Meeting – Tuesday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2011 – 7 p.m.**