

Nextdoor forum outreach for the Benton Park Neighborhood Association (BPNA) members and other neighbors interested in the English Cave Recovery Project upcoming Nov. 5th meeting vote.

Voting summary:

For quite a long time the English Cave Community Garden Committee has sought to link the garden to the cave so that we can relive an active form of lost history by accessing English Cave. The BPNA Leadership is asking us to use Nextdoor to alert BPNA members to take part with your free will and log your vote in person at the BPNA General Meeting on Tuesday November 5, 2019.

The vote will focus on Phase 1 drilling funding of a series (1-3) of 5 inch diameter holes going 47 feet deep by a company called Geotechnology, Inc. (This company lists Busch Stadium as a project type.) They will work the first day "free/pro bono" but then each additional day, no more than three, is \$2,750.00 which includes locked capping – or sealing - of each hole. The Gardeners will launch a fundraiser for 50% of the costs which is \$2,750.00 for hole number two. (They have pledges of \$2,050.00 as of Sept 21, 2019 and certainly welcome your donations ***if the funding vote passes.***)

The voting motion:

The motion will be focused on the BPNA helping fund Hole Number 3 **only** to the amount of \$2,250.00.

(If this financing vote fails then it will require the Gardeners and Friends to raise all of the remaining \$5,250.00 costs. Let us know if you can make a tax free monetary donation if you support this historic effort. Just contact Bill Kranz at englishcave@bentonpark.org)

Great, but how do you know where to drill?

Drill sites 1, 2 and 3: The actual spot above the cave we want to drill first and foremost are detailed in most of the nine or so Paul Wack "for sale" ads.

These ads go on for over a decade and a few samples are included just below. Basically they describe a "Central Chamber" of the cave 255 ft long by 40 feet wide with a 17 foot high ceiling under the 1960 Provenchere Place garden property boundaries.

Drilling Phases 2 and 3: IF we successfully win the approval to proceed with the November 5th vote and get video documentation and perhaps robotic explorers in the cave then we will deliberate options for Phases 2 and 3. These phases will need votes taken also and concern enlarging the 5 inch hole for a human survey team and then a 3 ft wide hole to begin operations for Phase 3. The Garden Committee will, in all likelihood, self-finance the expenses for Phases 2 and 3. Your comments are also welcome on these options but we are taking this development one key step at a time.

Summary: We do want your thoughts and opinions on the project leading up to the vote. We will answer your questions in Nextdoor or you can email the garden leadership at: englishgarden@bentonpark.org.

We want to thank all involved in this effort including the BPNA Directors and Board Members at Large, Alderman Guenther, my fellow Garden Committee members, and the English Cave Steering Committee team.

We gratefully thank Gateway Greening Land Trust, Inc. for making the Garden Committee members happy by working with us on this Phase 1 drilling option!

Several Paul Wack sales ads to follow. Mr. Wack owned the property for some 20 years and had a winery in the cave.

A RARE business chance; selling at a sacrifice; being desirous to retire, I offer for sale my wholesale and retail wine and liquor business in this city, established 15 years at present location, at cost, including good will, revised list of over 1100 outside customers and over 2500 in city; entirely a mail order business on a well paying basis; approximate inventory of wines, liquors, champagne apparatus, etc., \$7000; office and store building, stable, sheds, etc., on 97 feet front by 141 feet on Wyoming st., joining 75 feet front by 171 feet on Provenchere pl., at \$11,500, total \$18,500; specified inventory on application; real estate is put down at \$42.50 per front foot on Wyoming st. and \$25 per front foot on Provenchere pl., being at a less figure than recently sold in immediate neighborhood; a natural cave, for itself a valuable asset, used as wine cellar, underlies the above properties, is 40 feet by 250 feet in size, 17 feet high, 47 feet below the surface, all-year temperature 59 degrees Fahr., with a continuous flow of 3/4-inch clear water, adaptable also for mushroom culture, mineral water or ice plant; no extra charge is made for the existence of the cave, accessible by hand elevator and a 12-foot wide stone steps; terms, \$5000 cash, balance to suit at 5 per cent interest. If the purchase of the premises is not desired, I ask acceptance of a lease for 8 years at \$100 per month to compensate for good will and established trade, with payment of inventory, as it may appear. Address owner, Paul Wack, 1959 Wyoming st., St. Louis, Mo.

9-27-1914 St. Louis Post-Dispatch mentions broad, stone steps.

MUSHROOM CAVE.

Will sell 75 feet front by 159, on Provenchere place, in 1900 block, between Arsenal and Wyoming, at \$30 per front foot, including "English Cave" to center of alley; all-year temperature 60 Fahrenheit; big, stone steps, entrance; profitable building location; leaving St. Louis; must sell at once; big bargain; will also sell, in 1900 block, 50 feet on Wyoming by 149, at \$42.50 per front foot; also house, 3922 Russell ave.; 9 rooms; 33 1/2 x 123 feet; \$6500. Address owner, Paul Wack, 3922 Russell ave.

St. Louis Globe-Democrat - September 27, 1908

This ad is the only one to date that mentions an "entrance".

