

Post / Franklin Neighborhood Planning Council
Thursday June 5, 2008
Doris Hale Multi-Purpose Room
175 Main St.
7:00 pm

Regular meeting of the Post/Franklin Neighborhood Planning Council called to order by Chairman John Cash at 7:02 pm

Attendance:

Members Present: John Cash, Louise Fuld, Teri Barker, Jaime Nelson, Pat Shellenberger, Lewis Chadderdon, Cynthia Fritz, Linda Carmona, James Moreno, Don Stormer, John Kenefick

Members Absent: Katie Hubbard, Eloise Fogg,

Guests and Visitors: City of BC Rep. Todd Nowicki, Citizen Herb Fuld, Chris Lussier-NSO, Pam Geleff, Tina Hernandez, Code Officer Steve Bundle, Jim Haadsma, Charles Colman BCPS, Steve Hoelscher BCPS, Sherry Sophia BC City Commissioner, Susan Baldwin BC City Commissioner

Additions and Deletions to the Agenda:

None

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes of the last council meeting approved

Motion to Suspend the regular meeting agenda in order to allow New Business-Battle Creek Public School representatives to speak was made by Lewis and supported by ? **-Passed**

New Business:

Dr. Charles Coleman Superintendent of BCPS and Steve Hoelscher Board Chair thanked the council for the opportunity to have a dialogue and provided the group with a written response to the questions that had been sent to them prior to the meeting. Meeting attendees were invited to ask questions as the representatives spoke about some of the specific questions on the list.

Question #3-BCPS has taken the lead to develop a relationship with neighboring school systems in order to encourage collaboration on services.

Question #4-BCPS offers more classes than other schools at both ends of the academic spectrum. Students from other schools participate in programs such as:

- Gifted & Talented program "Reach" which has a waiting list
- Fine Arts programs in Elementary and High School
- Full Day Kindergarten- BCPS is the only school system to offer this resource

- Summer School Bearcat Clubhouse which has a 600 student enrollment for the full day program that includes academic and social components.

Question #8-BCPS would be willing to talk about having a parent/resident advisory board.

Question #9-BCPS is developing outreach techniques including dialogue with Churches & planning councils and participating in the Battle Creek Enquirer blog. Also the board and administration is making an effort to reach out to folks who attend board meetings by personally following up on any questions asked.

Member Questions:

- *What role does PTA play in representation?* PTA's are currently part of discussions. Today PTA leaders took part in a meeting to discuss Battle Creek Community Foundation Scholarships.
- *In ten years what will our schools look like?* Phase I is ground breaking at Valley View Elementary which will be a prototype for future Elementary Schools.
- *What will happen to Post School building?* We are looking for an organization to come into the neighborhood and be an asset. Salvation Army has purchased the McKinley school building and The Boys & Girls Club is leasing the Washington school building. The Southwestern Junior High School building is close to becoming the permanent home of Michigan Youth Challenge Academy.
- *Does that include financial commitment?* No although we give facility support to the B&G Club at Washington.
- *If you had it to do over again, would you include planning councils in the planning phase of school closings?* Yes- Phase II work includes Franklin and Coburn Elementary building rehab.
- *What is plan B if the Millage doesn't pass for Phase II?* There is always the possibility that the Millage won't pass, but every student deserves the best education and we hope that the citizens will vote in the affirmative. Over the next few month we will be communicating and holding resident forums.
- *It appears that you have the money to build schools but not maintain them.* Not true- The new buildings will be much more energy efficient including

Dr. Coleman and Mr. Hoelscher thanked the meeting attendees again and invited all to contact them with any further questions.

Motion to return to regular meeting agenda was made by James and supported by Linda. **-Passed**

Correspondence and Announcements:

The following announcements were made by meeting attendees:

- Post Ave. will be having a block party on Saturday June 7
- Kingman Museum will be hosting a bus trip the Detroit Science Center on July 25. Cost is \$45, for information call 965-5117
- CAA is conducting a Community Needs Assessment members are asked to fill out the survey
- BCATS Transportation newsletter was handed out.

Committee and Staff Reports:

Police Department: The Officer was called away during the earlier presentation, however the BCPD report was handed out.

Planning Department /City Staff (966-3320)/Neighborhood Services (966-3379): Chris Lussier and Todd Nowicki reported to the group that:

- stealth rally will be held in the Wilson neighborhood on June 27th.
- The POPS Project on Post Ave is ongoing.

BC City Code Officer, Steve Bundle spoke to the group about yard mowing.

Beautiful Battle Creek Award: Jim Moreno and Jaime Nelson met to discuss the project that was proposed by Mayor Behnke. It was decided to use the current Beautiful Battle Creek award format and bring nominees to the August meeting. Jean Murphy will also be sponsoring a most improved award.

Membership: Membership committee will meet and implement a plan to recruit residents to the August meeting which will be a potluck.

Commissioners Comments: Commissioners Sophia and Baldwin reported that the commission had approved the demolition of the Register Building. This is a significant win for the planning council. Ken Tsuchiyama has been appointed as the interim City Manager and the budget was approved at the last meeting.

Action Committee:

Next Action Committee meeting is scheduled for 5:30pm June 12, at Trinity Lutheran Church., although this meeting will probably be postponed due to crime watch participation in the cereal festival parade.

Old Business- none

New Business- see above

Member Comments

- There was much discussion about the way the questions which were sent to BCPS for tonight's discussion were represented.
- It is requested that the property survey checklist which is used by BC City Code Enforcement Officers is included in the next council mailing.

Public Comments- none

Meeting Adjourned 8:45pm

Next Meeting August 7, 2008

Doris Hale Multi-Purpose Room, 110 Green St. 7:00 pm

Teri (Barker) Maisner- Neighborhood Planning Council #1 Secretary