

Neighborhood Planning Council – 4
January 16, 2008
Maple United Methodist Church
Minutes

Attendees:

NPC 4 Members and Residents: Kathy Medaugh, David Nielsen, Jana Anderson, Gentry Hammons, Helen VanValkenburg, Ed Lawrence, James Berry, Jeremy Andrews, Roselynn Goff, John Walton, George Wilson,
Guests: Kathy Griffey
Commissioners: Susan Baldwin and Sherry Sofia

Chair, Kathy Medaugh called the meeting to order at 7:00pm

Police Report:

Police report distributed by officers Case and Winer. The officers report that there has been an increased effort to work on the prostitution along the Capital Ave corridor. There has been a lot of information provided to the police by area residents and that has made a difference in the results. The problems on Harvard St. are being addressed by multiple departments with in the police and community.

Roselynn Goff issued a thank you to the officers for the quick response to a resident call regarding a prostitute. This has not happened in the recent past and is greatly appreciated.

NPC 4 member, Jim Berry, has agreed to work as a liaison to the police department to remind the department regarding the NPC meetings, bring the police reports to the meetings and also to make sure there is a flow of information between the organizations, between meetings.

Lt. Cherenenko is the Lieutenant for this area. To contact him please leave a voicemail message at 269-966-3306 x1023.

Minutes:

Upon Motion made by Dave Nielsen and supported by John Walton the minutes of the November 2007 NPC meeting were approved as corrected.

City Reports:

Commissioner Report:

Commissioner Sherry Sofia reports that the city is starting a very preliminary investigation regarding the installation of cameras in various areas to add extra eyes for the police and help lessen crime. Lansing currently is using this system and the commissioners are planning a site visit to gather additional information before any decision regarding this issue is made.

Sherry also reported on the new organizing of the city staff including the promotion of Susan Bledsole to lead the code compliance department to implement the rental ordinance. Please supply Sherry with information on how the new organization functions. Questions and comments regarding sidewalk snow removal and clearing were offered. The NPC will add this topic to the next agenda to gather suggestions for solving the issue.

Commissioner Susan Baldwin stated that commission meetings dates have been changed for this month. The commission is now having working meetings on Tuesday mornings on the opposite weeks of the evening commission meetings to discuss issues of the city and learn about items that are on the commission agenda.

City Code Report:

The Golden Service report was not distributed. Eric Campbell reported that a new reporting system was announced and it didn't work for creating the report in time for the meeting.

The new rental Ordinance has gone into effect and its registration efforts have begun. Approximately 1,800 letters have gone out to unregistered rental properties. 300 rental inspections have been scheduled since the adoption of the ordinance. At this time, following the Ordinance as it is written is requiring all properties to be inspected regardless of their current registration and inspection status with the city. This is being examined by the commission of how to make this change equitable to all landlords.

Golden service reports are now supposed to be accessible to all citizens to run their own reports. The email and link went out to city employees regarding this and the currently the link and directions didn't work so the city is working to fix that issue.

The city's computer systems, Golden Service and BSNA, fully compatible so all information is reflected in both programs.

Eric distributed a code compliance survey.

Properties of concern:

Concern was expressed regarding 136 Fremont which burned a few years ago. The property was donated to Habitat for Humanity and will be sold as it is too big for their program. However, neighbors are concerned about the 4 legged residents that have seemed to move in. Susan Baldwin will contact Habitat and see that the issue is remedied.

Committee Reports:

Beautiful Battle Creek:

No Nominations at this time.

Community Outreach:

Jeremy Andrews, Gentry Hammons, and David Neilsen met prior to the NPC meeting and have decided to contact the NPC's neighborhood associations to hopefully gather more members of the committee and to have a large volunteer basis so the NPC can do large projects such as a paintblitz. An invitation for additional NPC members and residents to join this committee was issued. Contact Dave or Jeremy to join.

Program:

Kathy Medaugh introduced Kathy Griffey of Battle Creek Public Schools. Kathy attended tonight's meeting to update the NPC on the all the new happenings with the new additions and other happenings in the district.

The new high school will be installing a geothermal heating system and the installation will start in the spring. Bids will be going out in the spring for the high school renovations and additions. ValleyView elementary will begin construction in the spring. ValleyView elementary has seen an increase of 80 students since the plan was approved.

Summer school planning is occurring. For \$10 all students enrolled in BCPS receive 6 weeks of full day activities in July – August. This program is located at Ann J. and the outdoor education center. The program had about 700 kids enrolled last year

Kids Camp, a part of the 21st century program runs from the end of school to the start of the summer school program. This gives students a full summer of activities!

The school is starting the initial planning for the next two phases of the facilities program. This is only the first year of 5 year process of phase 1.

All the downtown properties have been acquired now for the expansion of the HS.

No other plans are currently in the works for mergers of elementary schools before the next phase is released. This can always change as needs change. However, this is a School board decision

A question regarding the joining of Lakeview and BC districts was asked. BCPS and Lakeview and Harper Creek districts have hired a consultant to go over the ways to collaborate between the districts. However, any other action on this matter is for the respective school boards to answer.

The Legacy scholars program is a collaboration between Lakeview and BCPS and is a program similar to the Kalamazoo Promise. However the Legacy Scholars program was designed as a student support initiative rather than an economic development program like the Kalamazoo Promise. WKKF donated \$4 million towards the Scholars program.

New Business:

A motion to amend the start time of NPC 4 meetings to 6:30 pm was made by Jeremy Andrews and supported by Ed Lawrence was approved with a follow-up caveat regarding acceptability with the meeting location, Maple United Methodist Church.

Old Business:

At the November meeting Helen VanValkenburg mentioned the lights at Salvation Army which light the rear of the building, alongside her property were not working. She is very concerned with security because of that. Sherry Sofia asked the Salvation Army to repair those lights and they are still not fixed. Sherry will again request to Salvation Army that those lights be made functional.

David Nielsen reported on the Programming and Visioning that the NPC completed last fall. The NPC will begin with the Communication items. As mentioned before Jim Berry agreed to be the liaison between the Police Department and the NPC.

The beautification issues will be part of the Community Outreach group. Capital Ave, NE corridor, economic Development and others are still waiting for a chair person. Please contact Kathy or David if you are interested.

Comments:

John Walton updated the NPC on the progress with the Lutheran Church's additions. Construction has started and will be completed in the spring. Much has already been done, however some needs to wait until the weather is favorable.

Jeremy Andrews attended the CrimeWatch meeting. He will serve as the NPC's liaison to that organization. Jeremy stated he is impressed with the level of organization currently in the group. Currently CrimeWatch is working on planning this season's stealth rallies. It was requested and agreed that an update from this committee be added to the agenda.

Jeremy also updated us that the N. Wabash neighborhood association had a "smart cart" installed to watch traffic. It was a successful venture and he encourages others to use this tool.

Neighborhood services sponsored a Resident Leader dinner. This event which many of the NPC members attended was valuable, including information regarding activities of other NPCs and organizations and what possibly can be done in collaborations.

Member George Wilson mentioned that he would like to see action on getting left turn availability at Cherry and Division Streets.

A motion to adjourn was made and supported by Gentry Hammons and Jeremy Andrews and was approved.

Adjourned 8:45p.m.