

# **Verona/Fremont/McKinley Neighborhood Planning Council**

## **April 16, 2008 Meeting Minutes**

### **Attendance:**

NPC 4 members/residents: John Anderson, Jeremy Andrews, James Berry, Tony Enos, Jennifer Force, Roselynn Goff, John Hennink, Ed Lawrence, Bruce Medaugh, Kathy Medaugh, David Nielsen, Ronald Rankin, Ruth Rankin, Sherry Sofia, Laurie Sullivan, John Walton, George Wilson

Guests: Jim Baldwin, Susan Baldwin, Mark Behnke, Eric Campbell, Phyllis Hopkins, John Kenefick, Chris Lussier, Kate Segel, Suzanne Thurman

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chairman Kathy Medaugh  
The March minutes were approved as amended.

Kathy Medaugh and David Nielsen presented a set of proposed ground rules for NPC meetings. Two additions were suggested: a 3 minute speaker's time limit and the starting and ending times for meetings. The ground rules were approved and will be posted at each NPC meeting.

### **Program:**

Tonight's scheduled program from the Battle Creek Historical Society and the Historic District Commission has been rescheduled for the May meeting. In its place, a Crime Watch program was presented by Suzanne Thurman and Phyllis Hopkins. They discussed the purpose of Crime Watch, the collaboration with the BCPD, how properties are targeted with the emphasis often being focused on a whole area rather than a single property, and the opportunity for neighbors to meet and get to know police officers. Several members spoke about their experiences at Stealth Ralleys and how empowering the experience is. There was concern expressed about increasing blight and dropping property values and the failure of realtors in keeping up listed properties, especially in the Calhoun Street neighborhood.

### **Police Report:**

Officer Jim Martens from the BCPD presented the police report and discussed the ongoing efforts in high crime areas. Member concerns included wholesale failure to obey Stop sign at Calhoun and Orchard Streets.

### **City Code Report:**

Eric Campbell gave the Code report, and spoke about the differences in state law versus city statutes regarding trash dumpsters. Concern about burned buildings should be given to inspector John Pressican. An NPC 4 resident/guest expressed concern about the high weed and debris conditions at Beacon Ridge Condominiums. It was suggested that the primary contacts for this concern were realtor Bruce Phillips, manager of the complex, and the city weed inspector, Sherry Cunningham

### **City Commission Report:**

The City Commission report was given by Susan Baldwin. Issues included the search for a new city attorney, the current and future use of Full Blast, the newly separated water park and its reliance on admission fees. Questions and concerns included the blocking of driveways during street repaving, better lighting while streets are torn up for repair, and the possibility of alleys being used for garbage pickup. The blocking of alleys by garbage trucks was given as one obstacle in using alleys for pickups.

### **Committee Reports:**

#### **Beautiful Battle Creek Award:**

The April Beautiful Battle Creek Award nominee was 20 Chestnut Street – home of Brian and Juli Fuller.

#### **Community Outreach:**

Jeremy Andrews spoke about the June 7 Capital Avenue Cleanup project, and will provide more details at the May meeting.

#### **Old Business:**

Mix Hardware letter was received and Tim Mix has been invited to come to the NPC to discuss more about his rebuilding.

David spoke about the gang violence issue, encouraging members to become involved in the Urban League initiative. Laurie will be contacting Carl Word about this issue.

People with street lighting concerns should contact Neighborhood Services at 966-3379.

#### **Comments:**

Neighborhood Services will hold a mapping class on Monday, April 21 – free of charge for all those interested.

Kate Segel, from a neighboring NPC talked about the problems we all share in common and the need to work together to find solutions.

John Anderson presented the first draft of a property listing for areas of concern in our NPC, including Rose, Harvard, McKinley, Calhoun, Cherry and Franklin Streets. He will continue working on the list and provide an update at the May meeting.

Members were urged to:

- contact business owners to encourage their involvement in solving neighborhood problems
- contact the police department when problems arise and to connect with other neighbors

AccessVision should be contacted to change our meeting time listing.

John Hennink introduced a community web site plan designed to share information between NPCs.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00