

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

Attendees:

NPC 4 Members and Residents: Jana Anderson, Jeremy Andrews, James Berry, Jackie Braman, Tony Enos, Roselynn Goff, Gentry Hammons, John Hennick, J. Kline Hobbs, Lorraine Nelson, Sherry Sofia, Laurie Sullivan, Ed Lawrence, George Wilson, John Walton
Guests: Jim Baldwin, Susan Baldwin, Marcie Gillette, Greg Moore

In the absence of Chair and Vice Chair, Member Laurie Sullivan called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

Minutes:

A motion was made and supported by Jeremy Andrews and Gentry Hammons to approve the minutes of the June 18, 2008, meeting. The motion was approved.

Police Report:

Officer Horn was present to give the police report. Officer Horn stated that to work towards fuel conservation, officers will be doubling up, with 2 officers per car. Would there be an increase in motorcycle or foot patrols? Officer Horn responded the department only has two motorcycles and that officers may be out more often on them.

Events happening included a gun confiscation at 22½ N. Wabash and prostitutes were found on N. Chestnut.

Prostitution is a difficult crime to arrest for. Currently, the prostitutes are heavy along Capital Ave., NE. Please when making calls give highly detailed information. At this time, when arrested for prostitution it is a \$50 bond and \$12 booking fee (\$62) to get out and back on the streets. There are a couple programs that are addressing this issue, S.T.O.P. being one of them.

City Reports:

City Code Report: Marcie Gillette, of Neighborhood Services distributed the code report.

Windshield survey: Chris Lussier updated saying that many people have been contacted and the survey is about half completed.

Commissioner Updates: Sherry Sofia – After much discussion the 911 Dispatch Center is now going to be located in Marshall.

No further discussion on the surveillance camera issue. However, Calhoun County ISD approved a grant to Battle Creek Public Schools to install exterior cameras. At this time, there is no known restriction regarding the lens sweep. Currently, is up to the school and is not restricted to school grounds.

Committee Reports:

Beautiful Battle Creek: Nominations by Laurie Sullivan for Floral FX at 181 Capital Ave., and 155 East Ave.

Community Outreach: Still have \$ left from the last clean up BCCF will allow us to keep this \$ and use for the next clean-up. Last clean-up was really successful and the next one needs to be planned. Any volunteers please contact Jeremy Andrews.

Traffic: John Hennink reports that according to Max Pharris until traffic is forced onto main roads traffic will still be an issue for the secondary roads. Additional work needs to happen to make the main roads more friendly so more people will take them. In the mean time, enforcement of the existing traffic stops is the best option.

Crime Watch: Jeremy Andrews reports a stealth rally is scheduled for July 25th at 6:30pm. The Rally will start at Maple United Methodist Church and the destination is the Fairview neighborhood. There will be a focus on youth.

Also scheduled on July 26th Freedom Fest will be held from 10:00am – 4:00pm in Quaker Park. The Fest is sponsored by the Freedom Acres Neighborhood Association and Charitable Union and will feature games, activities, food and more.

Program:

Laura Adams spoke about her efforts with youth gang activity. She lives in the area around Battle Creek Central High School and was a witness to the school bus shooting. For her efforts she was awarded commendation by the Battle Creek Police Department for her assistance with the felony conviction on the school bus shooting.

She is continuing to provide information to the gang unit of the Police Department on activities in the neighborhood.

Mike Buckley was scheduled to discuss planning department issues, however, he announced his retirement effective at the end July and was unable to attend the meeting. Mike has been named the next leader of Neighborhoods Inc.

New Business:

Question was asked regarding leaving trash at the curb between pick-ups. If this is a problem file a complaint with Code Compliance. Special pickup events happen twice per year.

Comments:

Future suggested topics for possibly September: Since Code Compliance is performing general inspections how and what resources are available to help residents pay for the home improvements that code is mandating.

Greg Moore, candidate for State Representative (R) introduced himself and asked for support at the August 4th Primary election.

Susan Baldwin, candidate for State Representative (R) introduced herself and asked for support at the August 4th Primary election.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

(Next meeting will be August 20, 2008, 6:30pm, Maple United Methodist Church.)