

**Westlake/Prairieview Neighborhood Planning Council #10**  
**Council Minutes – January 28, 2007**  
Meeting at  
First Assembly of God Church  
800 S. 24<sup>th</sup> Street

**1. Call to Order**

- The meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM by David Wood, Vice Chair.
- Invocation by Cecil Salinas

**2. Attendance**

**Members: Present**

- John Behrendt, Opal Bell, Gary Blagg, Sandy Barrus, Cal Canfield, Diana Cole, Julie Davis, Gary Dodd, Joyce Garrett, Pete Francisco, Joanne Heinrich, Karol Henegar, Dwight Grandgenett, Jeff Koteles, Jack Ludlow, William Morris, Joann Novelli, Linda Patenaude, Mary Lou Ramon, Joseph Ratti, Cecil Salinas, Len Spano, David Weaver, David Wood

**Members: Absent**

- Steve Barker, Mary Lyn Smith, Luann Walbeck, Gerald Gilbert, Nancy Slocum, Debbie Standish, Maria Ozello, Jim Walbeck

**Guests:**

- Jim Baldwin, Cherise Brandell, Commissioner Baldwin, Commissioner Godfrey, Rita Grandgenett, John Kenefick, Commissioner Thompson, Commissioner Simmons, Bob Slocum, Commissioner Yankama, Robert Whitfield

**3. Additions /Deletions to agenda:**

- Jeff Koteles moved to add an item to the agenda: To discuss the issue of decisions being made by the Chair without the knowledge and consent of the full Council. Support by Mary Lou Ramon. **Passed.**
- Because of the length of the meeting, Jeff Koteles agreed with Chair Wood's suggestion near the end of the meeting to defer the discussion on his motion until the next NPC meeting in February.
- Linda Patenaude moved to amend the agenda by moving 11 C "Activation of Executive Committee to set monthly program" to after the election of officers. **Passed.**

**4. Approval of Previous Minutes:**

- On a motion by Linda Patenaude supported by Mary Lou Ramon, the minutes for the November, 2007 were approved without change. **Passed.**

## 5. Correspondence and Public Service Announcements from Commissioners

- After a brief statement, Chair David Wood distributed a fax he had received from Mary Lou Ramon and his response to it.

### Commissioner Andy Yankama

- Thanked voters for returning him to office.
- Reported that there was no real change in funding for Lakeview Woodland Park and Nature Preserve Committee.

### Commissioner Chris Simmons

- Stated that he was appointed to the Access Vision Board of Directors and Transportation Committee (BCATS).
- Circulated information about BCATS
- Indicated that 24<sup>th</sup> might be eligible for federal funding in the future
- Cited the Woodland Park Foundation Committee's work to-date as a good example of active citizen involvement
- Stated he will actively seek up-front money from public and private sources to obtain state matching funds from DNR for Woodland Park since it is the only park in southwest Battle Creek

## 6. Police Report:

- Officer Bagwell and Sgt. Pierce presented the Police report. Sgt. Pierce lauded the prompt, brave efforts of Officer Stuart Bell in keeping a female in Meier's parking lot out of harm's way.
- Questions or concerns of members included speeding on 24<sup>th</sup> Street and what officers might do to reduce it.
- At the end of the meeting, members agreed to the principle that the Police Report be given as early as possible to minimize the time they are off the street.

## 7. Committee Reports:

- **Membership:**
  - Linda Patenaude moved and Mary Lou Ramon seconded a motion to adopt the "Minutes of Membership Committee, January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2008."  
*Passed.*
  - Mary Lou Ramon distributed Associate Membership "Appointment in Perpetuity" for Mr. Peter M. Bilbia.
  - Mary Lou Ramon distributed a fax she sent to Rebeca Valez-Suarez requesting her to draft a resolution which would go before the Commission to reappoint ten members, whose terms expire in March, 2008.

- **Beautiful Battle Creek Award:**
  - Joann Novelli volunteered to provide nominees for this award. Others stated that they would help by sending her addresses.
- **CDAC:**
  - Linda Patenaude reported that the Committee had:
    - Interviewed applicants for funds
    - Made and distributed recommendations
    - Commissioners will award grants on March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2008 meeting.
- **Planning Commission:**
  - Bill Morris, a Planning Commission member, reported for Steve Barker who was absent, that Weezers had come before the Planning Commission with a request to extend their parking lot. It was approved after some modifications requested by its neighbors.

## 8. Special Reports:

- **Woodland Park Report:** Joyce Garrett, reported:
  - Acknowledged recent donations
  - Noted that Gary Dodd would lead a spring clean up at the park and along Gethings Road which borders the park
  - Reported that the park is being used
  - The HAPPI (Habitat for Animal and Plant Preservation, Inc.) headed by Luke Lindsey, is planning with the City of Battle Creek and seeking funding from other sources to repopulate the Karner Blue Butterfly in Woodland Park.
  - *Added by the secretary:* Specifically, Wild Blue Lupine would be planted over six years in a 35 acre designated area and also at various other locations throughout Woodland Park. (Taken from a letter of support to HAPPI from the City of Battle Creek.) The planting of the Wild Blue Lupine seedlings would be done by elementary school children through the 'Kids for Karners' Program' after the area is appropriately cleared. Currently, the location proposed for the larger tract of land to be planted with Wild Blue Lupine to support the Karner Blue has been proposed to be in the quadrant near the water tower section of the park.
  - Gary Dodd made a strong recommendation to have a bridge built at Woodland Park to provide access
- **Columbia Ave BID Report: Bill Morris reporting**
  - Nothing new to report. They continue to work with a consulting firm out of Grand Rapids. Members reminded Bill to stay concerned about reducing the traffic on Columbia and provide sidewalks. Bill indicated they would.

## 9. City Staff Reports:

- Cherise Brandell passed out the Golden Service reports. There were no additional complaints from members.
- Cherise gave this website to get access to Code Compliance and Inspection Issues Report: <http://www.ci.battle-creek.mi.us/NPC/NPCReport.cfm>

## 10. Old Business:

- John Behrendt, Nominations Chair, reported that the election of officers will take place at the February meeting.
- The candidates are:
  - Chair
    - Gary Blagg
    - David Wood
  - Vice Chair
    - Joe Ratti
    - Jim Walbeck
  - Secretary
    - Dwight Grandgenett
    - Joanne Novelli
    - Luann Walbeck
- Jeff Koteles moved and Mary Lou Ramon seconded to accept the names that the Nomination Committee presented. **Passed.**
- Mary Lou Ramon moved and Joyce Garrett seconded to close nominations. **Passed.**
- John will print ballots for the February election and City Commissioner(s) will tally the votes.

## 11. New Business:

- Mary Lou Ramon moved and Bill Morris seconded to continue the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday meetings for every month except December for 2008. **Passed.**
- Dates: January 28, February 25, March 24, April 28, May 26, June 23, July 28, August 25, September 22, October 27, November 24, no December meeting.

## 12. Special Program

- Commander Hampton, Sergeant Jim Walters, Detective Kathy Schley and Sergeant Jeff Case (the presenter) provided background on POP (Problem Oriented Policing) and answered questions about it.
- Sgt. Case stated that POP represents a philosophy change on how incoming 911 calls are dispatched. It is essentially a system for directing the type of response given to 911 calls. Some have described it as a triage system for handling 911 calls. Sgt. Case stressed that all 911 callers will be served, but differently than in the past.
- Before POP, police officers could be dispatched for all calls, including those that typically did not require police intervention, such as a child not

willing to put his shoes on. Now, the officers are dispatched for those 911 calls that require their intervention or assistance.

- Officers are now able to dictate information that is downloaded to the BDNF, thus saving them time.
- A self-reporting feature of POP will allow residents to self-report data on their issue on line. An example of this is a property damage situation like a vandalized mail box.
- Questions from Council members touched these issues:
  1. Are dispatchers police officers? Yes
  2. Are callers informed of the 911 Dispatcher's routing decision?  
Yes
  3. Could residents exaggerated/file false property damage claims for reimbursement? The dollar amount of the claim is limited and the resident only gets a claim number after the claim is reviewed.
  4. Officers are sent out for noise control complaints.

### **13. Comments for the Good of the Order:**

- Public comments: None
- Member's comments:
  - One member asked if the Lakeview School District is paying attention to potential drainage problems that might be presented when the new school is built. He stated even now the water level of the pond northwest of the school is rising and encroaching on some properties. Commissioner Yankama stated that he has discussed this issue with City Engineering.

### **14. Next Meeting:**

- The next meeting is February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2008 @ 7:00pm.
- Elections and Special Presentation: Mayor Behnke will present the NPC Charter and the purpose and goals of NPCs.

### **15. Adjournment:**

- Vice Chair Wood adjourned the meeting at 8:40 PM .

**Respectively submitted by:** Dwight Grandgenett for LuAnn Walbeck, Secretary