

# POST/FRANKLIN NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING COUNCIL

Thursday, May 6, 2010

CAA Board Room

175 Main St.

7:00 p.m.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. in the CAA Board Room.

## ATTENDANCE:

**Members Present:** John Cash, Cynthia Fritz, James Moreno, Pat Katie Hubbard, Simone Watkins,

**Members Excused:** Eloise Fogg, Linda Carmona, Louise Fuld, John Kenefick

**Guests and Visitors:** Commissioners Baldwin and Gray, Deb Norman, Franklin Elementary Principle, Dennis McKinley, Code Compliance Administrator

**ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA:** None

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** There were no minutes from previous meeting. It was noted to Chair that he really needed to get a handle on this matter as we have not had minutes since the December 2009 meeting.

## **CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- BCATS flyer was passed out to those in attendance.
- Note was made of the upcoming Neighborhoods Inc., workshop on neighborhoods on May 18, 2010 from 5-7pm at Burnham Brook. Call Neighborhoods 968-1113 to reserve your seat.
- City Budget Workshop - May 12, 2010 at 6pm at the Public Works facility on Kendall Street.
- Conversations with Commissioner Gray - third Monday of each month from 6-7pm at Mt. Zion A.M.E., Church, 364 W. VanBuren St. For more information call 269-830-2456.
- Health and Wellness Workshop - First Congregational Church, 145 Capital Ave NE, May 15, 2010 from 9am to noon.

## **COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS:**

**Police Department:** No Police representative was in attendance. This has been a trend for the last few meetings. Council requests Police Department attendance at June meeting.

**City Staff Representation:** Dennis McKinley was present and passed out Code report and noted issues and concerns.

- 120 Academy - it was requested that this be looked at as a possible rental issue
- 21 E Kingman - when was this property last inspected as a rental? Property is very run down and people are in and out
- 457 Main St - can you look to see if the property has been abandoned as there is a foreclosure notice posted.
- Battle Creek Central, new addition facing Champion appears to be very close to road. A concern was raised about setback requirement and is it in compliance?

### **Planning:**

Nothing to report

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

Members were asked to begin looking for potential candidates and bring this information to the June meeting.

### **Membership:**

Thoughts are that we will engage in active recruitment in the Fall as we traditionally have done.

**Neighborhood Services: None**

### **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:**

Commissioner Baldwin - Road repair contracts are still pending. Use of micro sealing is helping to ensure we get longevity out of our road surfaces. Concerns were shared with Commissioner's regarding the recent furloughs of fire fighters. It was noted that in these tough economic times that core city services should be maintained and all none essential services placed on hold. Fire, Police, water and sewer are the core city services tax payers should be able to depend upon. It was noted that in spite of these firemen being laid off the city's ability to respond to fire's and maintain fire safety in the city was not impacted. She thanked council for their input.

Commissioner Gray shared that it is her #1 priority is to get these individuals back to work; Commissioner Baldwin concurred. She noted the issue with Handi's Market - they have a lengthy record of issues and as such felt that business and citizens need to be responsible and held accountable for their actions. The market's liquor license is being suspended starting May 14<sup>th</sup> for one month. Question was asked as to the effect this might have - it is a wait and see process. NPC#2 has established an ad hoc committee that will work to address this matter and others like it in our community. Individuals interested in participating in this can contact Commissioner Gray. The Commissioner also noted that she was a member of the City Commission's Ethics Committee and that if there were issues or concerns that we felt should be looked at, individuals should contact her. One item that was noted was indebtedness to city.

**Subcommittee:**

No report was available

**Battle Creek Public Schools:**

Property acquisition next to school is complete, all houses have been demolished. Cleaning and grading of property will begin shortly. Kingman Neighborhood signage across from the school has been spruced up for spring and flower planting will follow. The Neighbors For Change forum that was held at the school attracted 70 individuals and there 25 students signed up for preschool and kindergarten for this fall. This gathering gave the school a real sense of community feeling. Question was asked about the property across the street that is adjacent to the Kingman Neighborhood sign, has the owner finalized its donation to the school? This matter is still pending.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Question was asked about obtaining a copy of the Dashboard PowerPoint presentation that was given to the Commission three-four years ago; could we get an electronic copy of it so that we could look into selecting a couple of items for discussing and implementation? Dennis McKinley stated that he would get with Chris Lousier and obtain a copy for us.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

None

**MEMBER COMMENTS:**

It was noted that at the upcoming City Budget workshop that hopefully the commission would take a serious look at what are core city services and maintain those; all others that are not core services be cutback or temporarily suspended.

**Public COMMENTS:**

Commissioner Gray reported that Census reporting for Calhoun County is at 78%, City is at 74-75%.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

**Next Meeting is June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2010 at CAA Board Room, 175 Main Street.**

Respectfully Submitted by, Jim Moreno, Acting Recording Secretary