

**North Central Neighborhood Planning Council #2
Meeting Minutes ~ November 23, 2010 ~ Neighborhoods, Inc.**

1. Call to Order & Welcome: Meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Samuel Gray, Chair

2. Attendance

Members Present: Lynn Ward Gray, Samuel Gray, Kitty Hillian and Betty Settles **Members Excused:** Keith McDonald, Sheryl McDonald, Rosetta Sanders and Cynthia Wyatt **Members Absent:** Jeffery Dinkins, Nina LaGrand, Steve Lee and Dorothy Young **Commissioner:** Lynn Ward Gray, Diane Thompson **City Staff:** Susan Bedsole, Officer Chad Francisco **Guests:** Scott Hutchings-FHC, Jessie Jackson-FHC, AJ Jones-FHC, Mary Lou Ramon-NPC #10, Ann Rosenbaum-CC Treasurer and Chandra Youngblood-Ann J School

3. Approval of Previous Minutes: Table October 12, 2010 minutes, no quorum

4. Additions or Deletions to Agenda: None

5. Correspondence & Announcements: None

6. Battle Creek Public Schools: C. Youngblood reported 1) Superintendent Hicks had first Superintendent Advisory Council Meeting, she'll continue to have these forums to hear what is going on in the district, 2) Redoing bus routes, 3) Restructuring of district is being evaluated, anticipate some shifting and moving may take place, and 4) invited NPC #2 members to Ann J School Holiday Program on Dec. 16 at 2 p.m., feel free to drop off canned goods for canned food drive. A couple of questions for BCPS were raised, C. Youngblood will look into them and will send responds to the NPC #2 chair to pass on to members. Dr. Hicks responded via email to L. Gray, looking into consistent BCPS reps for NPC #2. C. Youngblood said possibly her and Dudley principle could alternate attendance at NPC #2 meetings

7. Speakers: S. Bedsole, Licensing and Compliance Director, gave an overview of the Neighborhood Stabilization Program, what is NSP, eligible activities and areas, vision and goals, target areas and the roles of the city, land bank and stakeholders. Under NSP 1, the City of Battle Creek was awarded \$1.95M, plan for these funds was to rehab and place for sale 5 houses and demolish 131 blighted and vacant structures. Battle Creek currently has 1,200 vacant homes. **A. Rosenbaum, CC Treasurer,** gave an overview of the Calhoun County Land Bank, the property tax foreclosure 2008 tax year timeline, community outreach, CCLB initiatives, side-lot program and collaborations with Habitat for Humanity. **AJ Jones, Jessie Jackson & S. Hutchings all from the Family Health Center** spoke to their purchase of land at Buckeye and Emmett and efforts to purchase other property on Emmett. They have purchased a house in the area that will be used as a residence for visiting physician's

8. Committee Reports

Membership: B. Settles stated she has not gotten with D. Young to draft appeal letter/press release for local media but will get with her and prepare something for our review at the December meeting. Neighborhood Incorporated of Battle Creek and the Family Health Center both expressed interest in membership in NPC #2 as organizations. FHC will make a commitment to have someone present at monthly meetings, AJ Jones stated they want to be a partner and felt it's important to be a part of NPC #2 **Beautiful Battle Creek Award:** None submitted, L. Gray will provide her list at the next meeting **CDAC:** Jeffrey Dinkins – absent, no report

9. City Staff Reports

Police Report: Ofcr. Francisco reported, 1) B&E's are up, Enquirer reported 1 in 10 will be broken into in a year, 2) a second officer has been added to afternoon shift downtown, 3) Handy's still not selling liquor, and 4) 9? or 15? Hanover just had a drug raid. L. Gray & ML Ramon asked that Ofcr. Francisco ask the appropriate staff to look into alleged activity at convenience store in the back of the barbershop on Emmett and report findings back to the NPC **City Staff**

Representative: S. Bedsole reported NSP 1 demolitions and BBCA recipients are listed on code report, weed problems almost gone for the season. Department will be starting property surveys at the beginning of 2011, there are 17,500 residential structures in Battle Creek **Commissioner**

Comments: Comm. Thompson reported the following, 1) CDAC meets Dec. 4th to hear presentations from non-profits applying for grant dollars, 2) Project 20/20 hosted a public meeting earlier this month, and 3) Holiday parade took place recently and kicked off the IFOL. Comm. Gray reported the following: 1) The January 10th Conversations with Commissioner Gray will be a Town Hall focused on demystifying Code Compliance and explaining the property survey process, a homeowner's checklist will be provided, 2) the first City Commission Monthly Workshop will take place Dec. 1 at 7:30 a.m., feel free to join us, anticipate some discussion on Ordinance 1463 and possible next steps will take place, check the website for the schedule through June, no workshop is scheduled for April 2011, these will be short agenda's and last for about an hour, as always, time will be allotted for public comment, 3) a presentation took place November 16th regarding the Airport Noise Compatibility Study, 4) Comm. Gray is on the Tax Abatement Committee of the City Commission, and invited members to attend their first meeting on November 29th in room 302A in City Hall, 5) S. Bedsole was asked to give an update regarding the Medical Marijuana timetable and proposed regulations. L. Gray stated she sent those members with email the original information on this topic

10. Old Business: Membership Recruitment Plan – Tabled until December meeting

11. New Business: None

12. Member & Public Comments

Public Comments: None **Member Comments:** S. Gray invited members of NPC #2 to the Food Bank's Celebrity Server Luncheon Fundraiser. B. Settles presented the NPC #2 Strategic Plan created in 2001 by Marvin Austin and Mike Buckley. She suggested this may be something we take a look at to finish some of the items that weren't completed. L. Gray reminded members based on previous meetings, members want to create a membership recruitment plan first and bylaws revisions second. When those are complete, the membership can decide what direction they'd like to go. L. Gray will scan document and provide it to membership for future consideration. L. Gray announced the upcoming World AIDS Day – Test Day event at the Urban League Building on Dec. 1, 2-5 p.m., there will also be a presentation on Dec. 16 on the state of HIV/AIDS in minority communities, same location starting at 5:30 p.m. L. & S. Gray invited members to the NAACP holiday dinner on Thanksgiving Day at Washington Heights UMC, 12-2 p.m., volunteers welcome 10 a.m.-12 noon

13. Next Meeting: Tuesday, December 14, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. at Neighborhoods, Inc.

14. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:10 p.m. by Samuel Gray, Chair

Respectfully Submitted: Lynn Ward Gray, Member and Secretary until one is appointed