

Westlake/Prairieview  
Neighborhood Planning Council #10  
August 23, 2010 Regular Meeting  
**Draft Minutes**

**1. Call to Order & Welcome.**

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm by Jeff Koteles, Chair.  
Invocation by Cecil Salinas.

**2. Attendance:**

**Members Present:** Chairman Jeff Koteles, Secretary Kathy Barker, Vice Chairman Joe Ratti, Mary Lou Ramon, Cecil Salinas, Steve Barker, Mary Lyn Smith, Rita Grandgenett, Dave Weaver, Linda Patneau, Cal Canfield, Joyce Garrett, Tom Cramutolo, Opal Bell, Gary Dodd, Danyelle Bradshaw, Karol Henegar and Dwight Grandgenett.  
(16 members present)

**Excused:** Diana Cole, Joanne Novelli, Melinda Adams, Mike Troutman, Julie Davis, Neils Magnusson, Teri Mitchel, Gary Blagg, Jim Walbeck, Nancy Slocum, Pete Francisco, David Wood, and Len Spano. (13 members excused)

**Guests Present:** Mayor Susan Baldwin, Commissioner Andy Yankama, Commissioner William Morris, Jim Baldwin, Jack Ludlow, Mary Ludlow, Alfred Spiteer, County Commissioner James Haadsma, Lynn Haley, County Commissioner Lisa Gerow, County Commissioner candidate Mark Behnke, Alexis Behnke, Adam Brodley Behnke, and Kevin Smith. (14 guests present)

**Non-members Present:** Marcie Gillette Manager of Neighborhood Services and Dannyelle Bradshaw (2 present)

**Grand Total Present: 32**

**3. Additions or Deletions to Agenda:** None.

**4. Approval of Previous Minutes:** Joyce Garrett moved that the previous minutes be approved. Steve Barker supported the motion which was unanimously approved.

**5. Police Report:** No officer was present. Marcie Gillette passed out copies of the crime mapping report for review by the members.

**6. Correspondence, Announcements & Public Service Announcements from Commissioners:**

- a. Mayor Susan Baldwin stated that at the last commission meeting: there were a few city streets which had been renamed; the City approved that the Rosler contract would not be under the prevailing wage level; that the eighteen prospects would begin the interview process for the vacant commission seat on Tuesday night with Thursday night being the end of the selection process.
- b. Commissioner Andy Yankama stated that he looks forward to beginning meetings with prayer; that he had received nineteen calls regarding the pending selection of a replacement for the city commission's vacancy, a decision he would make after hearing all of the candidates speak.
- c. Commissioner Bill Morris stated that there is a good group running for the vacant city commissioner spot; that the Horse Park, downtown, may undergo changes. BID report was given by Bill. There is a man which goes out daily to clean Columbia Avenue. There are 20 planters which are watered, with 95-97% of members' taxes paying for these services. There will be a Yellow Ribbon gathering at Memorial Park on 9/11/10 to commemorate 9/11.

**7. Committee Reports**

**Membership:** Mary Lou Ramon stated that Len Spano asked that his name be removed from NPC#10 membership. Mary Lou then nominated Dannyelle Bradshaw as a new member. Support was given for the nomination with a unanimous vote for her acceptance. Dannyelle was then asked to sit at the table with other members.

**Beautiful BC Award:** Mary Lou Ramon said that we are good for a few months with already provided locations.

**CDAC,** Linda Patenaude's said that they will meet in November at which time there would be feedback from citizen input and grant packets provided.

**Planning Commission,** Steve Barker stated that the Wednesday, August 25th, meeting would consider rezoning classification from R1c to C3 business district of a location on SW Capital Ave., just south of Meachem.

- 8. City Staff Report** by Marcie Gillette: passed out the code report and brought to our attention that the Beautiful Battle Creek award location is now noted on this report. Joe Ratti stated that on the Pepperidge curve, after the recent paving, shows a 4-5" drop between the pavement and the shoulder. He is concerned about the asphalt breaking up at this location. Marcie said she would follow-up to see if the project is done or if there are future plans to address this area.

**9. Old Business**

**Woodland Park Report:** Joyce Garrett said she was hopeful to have the fourth Boy Scout project. Mike Troutman's project had been to create a recycled plastic grocery bag dispenser for dog waste with the dispensers located at each entrance. Lastly, there have been many hits at the park's web site.

- 10. New business** - none

- 11. Special Presentation.** Calhoun County Commissioner candidates, Lisa Gerow (the incumbent) and Mark Behnke spoke giving their reasons for being elected by voters.

**12. Comments for the Good of the Order:**

Tom Cramutolo spoke up about Horseshoe Pond where the ground water is staying up. One neighbor does not like this water going into the channel and asked that the drain commissioner not pump water into the channel. Tom objected to one neighbor having this power to stop the water movement. Tom said there should be no more studies performed. James Haadsma was versed in the issue and was able to answer some questions. What is needed is action to stop the flooding.

Gary Dodd asked Joyce Garrett when the next park clean up project would be held. She will get back too him.

Dwight Grandgenett asked why, since the time is twenty minutes to 8 pm, a member could not bring up an issue. It was decided that the flooding situation would be pursued after the meeting was adjourned.

Dannyelle Bradshaw, our newly elected member, works for the Substance Abuse Council and the Under Age Drinking portion of the Substance Abuse Council. She would be happy to answer any member questions.

Steve Barker said that the water issue keeps coming up. We need to follow-up at future meetings with things done as a group.

Joyce Garrett thanked the guest speakers and welcomed Dannyelle.

Mary Lou Ramon pointed out that the flooding and drainage issues were matters for the County to deal with, specifically the Drain Commissioner. She suggested that, being as how we had two County Commissioners in attendance, that questions/concerns be directed to them.

Joe Ratti said that the reason for the stopping of the water drainage into the channel was because the health department said there was e-coli in the water from the geese population. Lastly, Joe said he was resigning as Vice Chairman and from the council because of his new position in the teacher's union where he will be taking a leadership role.

Jeff Koteles thanked Joe Ratti for his service to NPC#10 and asked that Commissioners Haadsma and Gerow stay after the meeting to address the attendees concerns regarding the flooding and drainage issue (the Commissioners agreed).

The meeting was adjourned at about 7:50pm.

Further discussion regarding the flooding issue continued with the majority of members still in attendance. County Commissioner James Haadsma stated that the Drain Commissioner,

Larry Courtright, has jurisdiction over Horseshoe Pond. Commissioner Haadsma referred back to the meeting held at the First Wesleyan Church earlier this year where Larry Courtright spoke as well as the Water Resource Commissioner and the Kalamazoo Drain Resources person about this subject. Consensus was that Larry Courtright is a hands on Drain Commissioner and respected. Commissioner Haadsma stated that no one wants to pay assessed fees and/or taxes for the benefit of others. This issue is very contentious. Tom Cramutolo said that Horseshoe Pond has a crushed drainage line which had flowed into the lake. He maintains that Minges Brook should be fixed first. Some members stayed to further discuss the issue with Commissioner Haadsma.

The next meeting will be held September 27, 2010.

Minutes submitted by Kathy Barker  
Secretary NPC #10

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Contact Information for Members:

Members are encouraged to call the following City Departments directly with any concerns outside of the meeting:

Planning and Community Development	966-3320
Code Compliance/Bldg Permit issues	966-3387
City Clerk (Inspection Div.,Permits, etc.)	966-3348
Neighborhood Services	966-3379
Police Deputy Chief Jim Saylor	966-3375

Please call any of the following for an excused absence:

NPC#10 Chairman, Jeff Koteles	963-7096
Secretary, Kathy Barker	<a href="mailto:964-9525/SBKBarker@comcast.net">964-9525/SBKBarker@comcast.net</a>
Membership Chair, Mary Lou Ramon	<a href="mailto:963-5101/hercules31@att.net">963-5101/hercules31@att.net</a>