

Westlake/Prairieview
Neighborhood Planning Council #10
July 26, 2010 Regular Meeting

1. Call to Order & Welcome.

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 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, Diana Cole, Steve Barker, Mary Lyn Smith, Rita Grandgenett, Dave Weaver, Mike Troutman, Linda Patneaude, Cal Canfield, Joyce Garrett, Julie Davis, Tom Cramutolo, Melinda Adams and Dwight Grandgenett.
(19 members present)

Excused: Opel Bell, Karol Henegar, Joanne Novelli, Neils Magnusson, Teri Mitchel, Gary Blagg, Jim Walbeck, Nancy Slocum, Pete Francisco, David Wood, and Len Spano. (11 members excused)

Guests Present: Commissioner Andy Yankama, Commissioner Chris Simmons, Martin Brenner, Mary Kreiter, and Kevin Smith. (5 guests present)

Non-members Present: BCPD Officer Sara Bush and Marcie Gillette Manager of Neighborhood Services (2 City members present)

Grand Total Present: 37

3. Additions or Deletions to Agenda: None.

4. Approval of Previous Minutes

Corrections: page 3, #10; under Dwight Grandgenett, delete the last sentence. Under Kathy Barker, delete the last sentence. Mike Troutman moved that the minutes, of July 26, 2010, be approved with cited changes with support by Steve Barker. The vote was unanimously approved.

5. Police Report: Officer Sara Bush was in attendance because Sgt. Gilleyen was ill. She stated that most of the crimes south of Columbia Ave. are those of retail fraud, weather issues, and crimes owed to kids being out of school. Vice Chair Joe Ratti stated that there are cars “blowing” through stop signs, usually during the hours of 4-6 pm at Charles E and Pepperidge Lane. Officer Bush offered that drag strips have developed on Riverside to Beckley. Although meth issues have not been in the newspapers, the police are still focusing on this growing crime.

6. Correspondence, Announcements & Public Service Announcements from

Commissioners:

- a. Chair, Jeff Koteles, cited some points he felt need clarification and followed. Quote:
- 1) Bill (Morris), can sit at the table no talking out of turn or disrupting.
 - 2) BID as Bill already consented to when he resigned. BID report will be given by him at his commission report.
 - 3) Minutes/agenda come to me as Chair, I will submit.
 - 4) Official council business from chair or delegate, only.
 - 5) Continue extended mailing list unless those on list request not to receive.
 - 6) Membership/Beautiful Battle Creek – NO MORE discussion except routine business, who's here not here, want to be members, don't want to be members, etc. Nominations for Beautiful Battle Creek Award.
 - 7) The Chair will recognize members before asking questions to presenters. Presenters will not call on members. End quote.

Marcie Gillette, Manager of Neighborhood Services said that their new designee, Dawn Hammond, will upload older minutes after they have been approved, to the city's WEB site.

b. Commissioner Andy Yankama stated that because of the recent excessive rain, there are high water issues. He has contacted the Sheriff's Dept asking that boaters work to keep the height of waves down in order to lessen high water issues. After he had taken office, he had gone to Chris Dodd to discuss the quality of Lakeview's streets. Commissioner Yankama has spoken with Larry Cartwright, the Drain Commissioner, about the water issues. Tom Cramutolo questioned the priorities of water issues with Horseshoe Pond and Minges Pond. He stated that consideration that Minges be first. Does not make sense to pave roads until the background work has been addressed for these ponds. Sonoma Road is wavy because of underground piping. Gary Dodd inquired about the wet lands issue with the construction of the dual runway. Does the city have responsibility to repair those wetlands.

c. Commissioner Chris Simmons said that Ken Tushiyama has stated that there are no "natural" wetlands at the airport. For this reason, there seems no planned effort to address these wetlands. However, Chris promised to follow up the issue with Ken. Since Battle Creek's airport has room to grow, we have the potential to expand this facility. Kalamazoo is completely boxed in and can no longer expand.

7. Committee Reports

Membership: Opel Bell called Mary Lou Ramon and said there is no change in our membership numbers.

Beautiful BC Award: 259 Lakeshore Drive was nominated. Mary Lou Ramon said that she was told that we need only three more nominations for the rest of the year.

Suggestions are needed.

CDAC, Linda Patenaude's membership, with this organization, has been renewed.

Planning Commission, Steve Barker stated that the Wednesday, July 28th, meeting has been cancelled. The next meeting will be August, 25, 2010.

- 8. City Staff Report** by Marcie Gillette stated that their goal is not to have private properties deteriorate which is the reason they have code officers checking properties.

The property at Gethings and Chalmers is showing the orange fencing to be secured. They are working with the property owner to see what is their future intent for the site. Permanent fencing could be placed around the site. The owner has two weeks to decide how they will proceed. Currently there is no valid building permit. As a follow-up of a question about the 29th St and Columbia property, there appears to be no known use for this property. Frank Ballard will follow-up with this site. The last issue was clarification of the definition of "front yard parking", which is parking in the front of the property on unimproved surfaces.

9. Old Business

- a) **Woodland Park Report:** Joyce Garrett said she is now getting e-mails from the WEB site. Yes, the backside of the entrance sign will be completed. Contact information is again being shown, as follows:
Website: www.woodlandparkbc.com
Facebook page: Friends of Woodland Park Battle Creek.
E-mail address: woodlandpark@comcast.net
Phone: Joyce Garrett, Chair, WPNFP Committee
jmg321@comcast.net, (269) 969-8945

10. New business - none

- 11. Special Presentation.** The scheduled speaker was unable to appear. Commissioner Chris Simmons shared what he knew about the Michigan Marijuana law. The medical scientific information says medicinal marijuana can work. It is now a state law. There are marijuana clubs popping up around the state. Battle Creek has no laws on the book to support this. For this reason, the City issued a 6 month moratorium on new Compassionate Clubs. How will we comply with the state law? There could be up to 72 marijuana plants in a home. Marcie Gillett said that growing needs a great amount of amperage and high humidity. Will there be adequate voltage into the home to support this increase? How will we control mold spores because of the high humidity? This is why there was the introduction of an emergency charter endorsing the moratorium.

12. Comments for the Good of the Order:

- a. Steve Barker thanked Chair, Jeff Koteles, for his comments for the good of the council and reminded all of the August 3, 2010 primary.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm

The next meeting will be held August 23, 2010.

Minutes submitted by Kathy Barker
Secretary NPC #10

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:

Chairman, Jeff Koteles	963-7096
Vice Chair, Joe Ratti	969-0636
Secretary, Kathy Barker	964-9525/ SBKBarker@comcast.net
Membership Chair, Mary Lou Ramon	963-5101/ hercules31@att.net