

**WESTLAKE/PRAIRIEVIEW
Neighborhood Planning Council #10
Meeting Minutes
October 25, 2010**

Call to Order & Welcome:

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Chairman Koteles. The invocation was lead by Cecil Salinas.

Attendance:

Members Present: Chairman Jeff Koteles, Mary Lou Ramon, Cecil Salinas, Rita Grandgenett, Danyelle Bradshaw, Linda Patenaude, Gary Dodd, Julie Davis, Pete Francisco, Joyce Garrett, and Dwight Grandgenett. (11 Members Present)

Excused: Mike Troutman, Opal Bell, Neils Magnusson, Cal Canfield, Mary Lyn Smith, Karol Henegar, Melinda Adams, Steve Barker, Joe Ratti, Joanne Novelli, Tom Cramutolo, Teri Walbeck, Kathy Barker, Diana Cole, Jim Walbeck, Gary Blagg, Nancy Slocum, and David Wood.

Absent: Dave Weaver

Special Guests Present: Commissioner Chris Simmons, Commissioner Bill Morris, Representative for Tim Walberg (R) US Congressional Candidate; Ron Soloc, Carolyn Quinn, and Susie Soloc. (5 Guests Present)

Non-Members Present: Marcie Gillette Manager of Neighborhood Services and Sgt. Martin Brown BCPD. (2 City Staff Member Present)

Grand Total Present: 18 Members, Guests & Staff Present

Additions or Deletions to Agenda:

Linda Patenaude asked that the Airport Sound Study be added to this night's agenda under Old Business.

Approval of Previous Minutes:

It was moved by Linda Patenaude, supported by Cecil Salinas and carried to approve the minutes of the September 27, 2010 meeting of this council.

Police Reports:

Sgt. Martin Brown gave a brief overview of the crime states between September 27th and October 25th 2010. On the whole serious crime was down for this time period.

Correspondence, Announcements & Public Service Announcements from Commissioners:

Commissioner Simmons stated that they city staff was holding a public workshop on rental ordinance 1463 which is due to sunset on December 31st seeking public input on whether to renew this, or not. All interested parties were invited to attend. The meeting would be held October 26th at 6:30pm in the Commission chambers. He also reminded everyone that there would be no commission meeting on November 2nd as this was election day. He encouraged everyone to get out and vote. A question was asked regarding the Obsolete Property tax freeze/abatement given the new funeral home where Henkel's car lot formerly stood on W. Dickman Road. This property would receive a 12 year tax abatement on any new improvements to this property. Commissioner Simmon stated that there was some concern raised from local businesses that this created an unfair advantage for the funeral home over the already existing businesses along that strip.

Commissioner Morris discussed the medical marijuana issue and the placement of facilities where this product would be dispensed within the city and asked members to email him with any concerns about this matter and 'local hiring preferences' when the city is giving out contracts for work @ Wm544@aol.com . He also stated for his BID report that they were still doing a light study for Columbia Avenue and thinking about Christmas lights.

Committee Chair Reports:

Membership: Mary Lou Ramon stated that there was nothing new to report.

Beautiful BC Award: Mary Lou Ramon stated that we are good for a few months with the already provided addresses.

CDAC: Linda Patenaude stated that CDAC would hold it's orientation meeting on November 10th from 5:00pm to 9:00pm. They would receive their packets with the names of all the organizations that would be applying for grants from HUD's Community Development Block Grant program.

Planning Commission Report: Commissioner Morris, filling in for Steve Barker, relayed that the Planning Commission had a variance request from a citizen wishing to use a vacant city lot as a neighborhood playground in the Colburn NPC area.

City Staff Report:

Neighborhood Services:

Marcie Gillette passed out the code report and gave updates on previously mention issues as well as taking new concerns into consideration. It was noted that the lot on the corner of Gethings and Chalmers was in the process of having the excavated portion filled in and she was asked the status about repairs needed to the curb cut parking on S. 23rd Street caused by Semco Energy running underground gas lines several years back and not patching it correctly.

Old Business:

a. Woodland Park Report: Joyce reported that a boy scout was doing a guide map board for the park the park had been nominated for a 'Keep Michigan Beautiful' Award which she promised to bring to this council's November meeting.

b. Airport Sound Study: Linda Patenaude stated that, now that the noise studies were done, the next step would be to use the results to apply for grants for the airport and limit development in the new flight paths.

New Business: None.

Special Presentation:

Ron Soloc spoke on behalf of Tim Walberg who is running for US Congress against Mark Schauer. He spoke primarily about the negative campaign ads being run on TV right now and about the weakness of the Social Security system.

Comments for the Good of the Order:

Public Comments: None.

Member Comments:

At this time Rita Grandgenett and Dwight Grandgenett, once again, questioned who ought to be able to take excused absence calls from members not able to attend the council's meetings. Chairman Koteles briefly re-explained that members were to call an officer or the Membership Chair for that purpose. To which Dwight countered that there was no reference to this in the By-laws, whereby Chairman Koteles stated that this had always been the practice of this and every other council citywide. Membership Chair, Mary Lou Ramon, then stated that the minutes contained the proper contact information for members desiring an excused absence. She, also, stated the council was not so much concerned with removing members for non-attendance as with certain members continually bringing this matter of meeting attendance and member standing up at the meeting table and questioning the ethics of the Membership Chair, further stating that this was making newcomers feel unwelcome and making it hard to attract new members to the table. Chairman Koteles then re-stated his standing rule, cautioning members to stop making statements which were unkind or derogatory about meeting attendees, or officers, or committee chairs, that these statements were out of order and that they were potentially keeping new members from attending meetings by this conduct. He then stated that all persons regardless of their community standing were welcome to become members of this council and attend the council's meetings when they could. He further stated that this matter would be permanently dropped from discussion at future meetings.

Next Meeting: Monday, November 22, 2010 at 7:00 p.m..

November's Speaker will be Jeramy Andrews Speaking about the Battle Creek Metropolitan Area Mustache Society which holds fundraiser events to raise money for Kingman Museum, i.e. Down Hill Cardboard sled race, chili cook off and ugliest sweater contest at the Arboretum featured in the Shopper & Enquirer.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m. by Chairman Koteles.

Respectfully Submitted:

Mary Lou Ramon
Acting Secretary NPC # 10

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Contact Information For Members:

Members are encouraged to call the following City Department's directly with any concerns that arise outside of the meetings: The Planning and Community Development department may be reached at 966-3320. For Code Compliance and building permit related issues you may call Supervisor Marcie Gillette (Code) at 966-3387, or Donna (Permits) at 966-3348. Police Commander Jackie Hampton may be reached by voice mail at 966-3306 ext. 1006 with any police concerns occurring outside of the meeting time.

Memo: Please call Chairman Koteles at 963-7096 or Membership Chair Mary Lou Ramon at 963-5101, or email the Mary Lou Ramon at hercules31@att.net, for an excused absence if you are unable to attend a meeting. No reason need be given to be excused.