

MINUTES Council (NPC) #11  
Minges Brook/Riverside Neighborhood Planning  
Riverside Elementary School Library  
650 Riverside Drive, Battle Creek, MI 49015  
Wednesday October 27, 2010

1.7:00 PM - Welcome and opening: Randall welcomed all attendees to the meeting.

2. Attendance: Randall Champlin, Marge Barda, Rudy Barda, John Godfrey, Helen DeVine, Frank Eglund, George Vallillee, Bev Vallillee, Jan Barry, Jim Haadsma (arrived 7:45). Visitors: Talia Champlin, Karl Dehn, Susan Bedsole, Sally Goss, Joe Goss, Elizabeth Fulton, Andy Penney, Zane Mead

3. Additions or deletions to this agenda: None

4. Approval of the September meeting minutes: It was moved/seconded by Godfrey/G. Vallillee that the September meeting minutes be approved. Motion passed.

5. Correspondence sent/received: Randall reviewed the following:

\* Alton Leon Alford, Ed.D. -Senior Associate- WS and Associates, LLC: Wednesday, December 8, 2010 at the Downtown Partnership offices located at 115 West Michigan Ave, downtown Battle Creek. There will be two focus group sessions held on that day, one from Noon to 1:30 pm and one from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm. Topic is Battle Creek Downtown Transformation Initiative (DTI)

\* City of Battle Creek and the Calhoun County Land Bank received Neighborhood Stabilization Program 2 grant dollars. Generally, this money allows for the acquisition and rehabilitation/demolition of foreclosed and abandoned houses. Over the past several months we have been analyzing data and developing a strategy for the program. We would like to share this information with as many residents as possible. To that end, if your NPC would like for the City/County to make a presentation at one of your meetings regarding this program, please let me know and I will put you on the schedule.

\* Notice of public forum for City Staff to receive resident and stakeholder input regarding City Ordinance 1463 is focused on Rental Housing. Time: Tuesday, October 26, 2010, 6:00 p.m., City Hall, 10 N. Division Street - Third Floor, Commission Chambers, Room 301

\* Notice BCU and Project 20/20 are co-sponsoring a community forum for November 10 from 6:30-8:30 pm at Burnham Brook Community Center at 200 W. Michigan Avenue.

6. City staff reports

\* Police Department Report: - City representative: Susan Bedsole reported on the traffic on Riverside, near Riverside School. There is additional police presence on Riverside in the mornings, as well as other times, for safety of the students. City manager is meeting with the principal on October 29 on this issue. Sally Goss offered additional information on the traffic/safety issue, as well as that concern of additional parents. Mention was made of the drop in police presence in the past years. Suggestions also made for: the crossing guard to wear the orange vest at all times and to put in a speed bump or a rumble strip, additional crossing light during school times. There is a list of interested people who are concerned about this safety for children.

- Question was raised on the extent of the Riverside closure next year for the Beckley Road and Shortridge stretch to repair sewer damage during the road/bridge construction. Susan reported this could extend to two months.

- Concern brought up about the parking on Riverside Drive during the softball season.

\* City/County Commissioners' reports: Elizabeth Fulton encouraged everyone to vote on November

2. Riverside Principal Denise Meyers reported that school staff will park off-site to free up additional parking space for the voting day. Jim reported that there is an oil spill task force meeting scheduled tomorrow at CISD at 6:00 pm - he will provide a report for next month. Election day is Monday - he encouraged people to vote.

7. Committee reports

\* Beautiful Battle Creek Award - Ann Wyson; Award for October goes to James and Stephanie Balch on 803 Eastfield Drive.

\* CDAC and Membership - Wendy Rominger - No report

\* Neighborhoods and Land Use - John Godfrey - No news for NPC 11

\* NPC 11 Programs - James Haadsma -

8. Old business from previous meetings:

9. New business

\* Betty Arnquist has moved out of NPC 11. .. Need to vote to remove her from the NPC roster. It will not require commission approval but will need to be a formal NPC motion -per D. Hammond.

Motion made/supported by Godfrey/B.Vallillee to remove Betty Arnquist from the NPC roster. Motion passed.

\* This month's program - Karl Dehn, President and CEO Battle Creek Unlimited - Speaking on Downtown Battle Creek Transformation:

The downtown transformation project is underway with \$85 million in public and private investments anticipated over the next three years.

Mr. Dehn reviewed a handout on the downtown transformation project. He received questions from the attendees. It was brought up that housekeeping/maintenance needs to be attended to; namely, telephone poles that are on the two blocks leading into the city should be put underground for less visibility. Question about status of The Rink - it has been turned over to private hands and is a downtown recreational activity. Entrance to the city of the landscaping at the BL I-94 and Michigan Avenue needs better maintenance. Ongoing maintenance of the future designs and projects is a big factor in the future planning. Mr. Dehn's presentation was much appreciated.

10. Public comments

11. Members' comments: It was brought up that the mailing of

NPC minutes/agendas is a duplication of the same being e-mailed to members and additional interested parties. Susan Bedsole asked that anyone wishing a paper mailing should see her at the end of the meeting.

12. Next meeting (Combined Nov/Dec meeting): Wednesday, December 1, 2010 7:00PM, Riverside Elementary Library

\* Program Topic: TBD

13. 8:30 PM - Adjournment