

Minges Brook/Riverside Neighborhood Planning Council (NPC) #11
MINUTES
Riverside Elementary School Library
650 Riverside Drive, Battle Creek, MI 49015
Wednesday September 22, 2010

1. **7:00 PM - Welcome and opening** – Randall welcomed all in attendance to the meeting.
2. **Attendance sheet:** Randall Champlin, Marge Barda, Dave Hawks, John Godfrey, Jim Baldwin, Marcia Holmwall, Glenn Holmwall, Helen DeVine, Jim Haadsma, Jan Barry, Rick Baron, Elizabeth Fulton, Ann Wyson, Visitors: Christine Hilton, Zane Mead, Joy Bishop, Michael Jaconette
3. **Additions or deletions to this agenda** None noted
4. **Approval of the May meeting's minutes** Glenn Holmwall/Godfrey moved and seconded to approve the May meeting minutes as written. Minutes approved.
5. **Correspondence sent/received:**
 - Board, Commission, and Committee Application from Susan Bedsole. Randall shared correspondence from Susan Bedsole; point of interest is that Riverside Drive will be closed for a couple months next spring – more information on this next month. A thank you note was received from the Smiths for their Beautiful Battle Creek Award received last May. Randall distributed to the NPC an application for any board and/or committee should any member be interested in applying.
6. **City staff reports**
 - Police Department Report – Sergeant Gillian reviewed the reports on crime stats and code enforcements in the area. He noted that some cars are left unlocked with theft of items more likely from those cars.
 - City representative –.
 - City/County Commissioners' reports - Elizabeth Fulton reported the commission voted on the driveway downtown on Jackson for the additional access (6-2). John Godfrey urged to have a series of workshops before a vote is taken on costly changes on public safety. Glenn Holmwall spoke to benefiting through workshops also in cross training of skills. Dave Hawks questioned who is responsible for the Riverside bridge/I-94 ground maintenance. He was suggested to contact the City (Susan Bedsole).

Jim Haadsma reported on some of the Enbridge activities. Jim thinks the clean up has gone as well as expected but it will take a long time to complete. Regulatory people will be leaving here late autumn, but the clean up activities will continue for a long time. Affected area starts at Talmadge Creek to Ceresco Dam, then 15 miles down to Battle Creek then on to Comstock for about 35 miles. One of the EPA officials commented a few weeks ago and this is the worst spill he has experienced in the past 18 years due to the water height of the river and to the removal of the oil from the riverbanks, etc. Cost to the county has been extensive and Enbridge is to reimburse the county. Will Enbridge stay to the end? Another concern is what about the infrastructure for the future with these pipelines? FEMSA gave a citation in spring 2010 to Enbridge about the pipeline, just prior to the July 25 breakage. Our area is considered an environmentally sensitive area due to location of Kalamazoo River and Lake Michigan. Enbridge, despite its poor history of maintenance, is doing a credible job of getting this area cleaned up.

County Budget: A balanced budget is needed to be passed at the end of each year. A majority of board voted to lay off 5 people to help with budget. The county administrator was given a raise but Jim voted against this raise due to lay off of people and less revenue coming in.

Jim Baldwin reported on the Big Marsh/Minges Brook, which is not within the province of the county board but is the Dept. of Agriculture and the County Drain Commissioner. At the meeting

this afternoon, the geologist was impressed with the ecosystem of the area. From Watkins Road to Minges Creek to Harper Creek there is good water flow and good water quality. The engineer presented some problems with beaver dams, culverts, etc. There will be a couple more advisory meetings but he suggests anyone come who is interested as most of NPC 11 is in this area. Jim will advise Randall of the upcoming meetings and Randall will share this information with the members.

Jim Haadsma shared some information on Land Bank and Neighborhood Stabilization Programs. Grant money will be spent on stabilizing neighborhoods, where the money will be a good investment such as College and Latta areas.

Jim Haadsma noted the bad condition of the Glenwood Trace apartments. Many of these were condemned.

Absence of illuminating street lamps operating: Street lamps maintenance are contracted over \$1 million annually to Consumers Energy. The number of illuminating lamps that are not working are over 700+ lamps. Question arises what is the City paying for if the lamps are not being maintained more efficiently.

7. Committee reports

- Beautiful Battle Creek Award - Ann Wyson reported the following: July 2010, Janet Lewis, 157 Valley View; September 2010 John and Sally Goss, 623 Riverside Drive
- Membership - Wendy Rominger No new members
- CDAC Update - Wendy Rominger There has been no meeting.
- Neighborhoods and Land Use - John Godfrey reported Planning Commission meeting was cancelled on this date.
- Schools - Vacant Chairperson
- NPC 11 Programs - James Haadsma Jim reported the programs are going well with the help of Randall.

8. Old business from previous meetings: None

9. New business

- This month's program - Christine M. Hilton, AICP Planning Supervisor, City of Battle Creek The most recent plan completed for the City was 1997. The plan's goals and objectives are still relevant with a need to review. Some policies need to be more carefully monitored. There is a need to review land zoning and what is existing in different city areas that may need to be changed. Most master plans are meant to last about 20 years, with review every 5 years. She feels our current plan is relevant.

10. Public comments – Mike Jaconette thanked everyone for help in the primary election. On October 2 there will be a walk at Binder Park Zoo for diabetes.

11. Members' comments – Susan Baldwin has asked Jim to receive input on chickens in the city. Do people want this?

John Godfrey reminded people of the *Fall into the Arts* on October 15.

The Michigan Youth Challenge Academy did some boulevard clean up this past summer as Randall reported. Jan Barry supported this information with the considerable work this group has done. It has been grant funded.

12. Next meeting: [Wednesday, October 27, 2010 7:00PM](#), Riverside Elementary Library,

- Program Topic: Cathy Needham - Downtown Transformation Project

13. 8:26 PM - Adjournment