

POST/FRANKLIN NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING COUNCIL

Thursday, Nov 3, 2011

CAA Board Room

175 Main St.

7:00 p.m.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the CAA Board Room.

ATTENDANCE:

Members Present: Linda Carmona, John Cash, Cynthia Fritz, Katie Hubbard, Gilbert Ortiz, Yvonne Powell, Simone Watkins, Diana Quiqq and James Moreno.

Members Excused: Eliose Fogg, John Kenefick, and Pat Shellenberger.

Guests and Visitors: Commissioners Elizabeth Fulton and Lynn Ward Gray, Deb Norman - Franklin School, Deven Nelson, Susan Bedsole - B.C. Neighborhood Services, and Sherry Sofia.

ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA: None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: October minutes were approved with a motion made by Diana and seconded by Gilbert, motion was approved.

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Downtown Forum, Nov 10, from 6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. at Burnham Brook, discussion will be on the way forward for downtown.

BCPS Superintendent's Council Mtg is Nov 7. Dinner is at 5:30 in the Commons Area of the high school. Dr. Hicks will give a presentation at 6:15 p.m. in the McQuiston Ctr.

COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS:

Police and Code Department:

Susan Bedsole was present. Both Police and Code reports were distributed:

The following was reported and Susan will pass on the Police Dept.:

247/249 Main Street - Front yard parking.

47 Post (corner) do they own the vacant lot adjacent?

23 Echo - parking in vacant lot.

It was also noted that Pitbulls (various other dogs) running loose. Please call Animal Control and give a description of the dog to them. If the dog is vicious do not attempt to confront it. You can also call 911 as they will also contact Animal Control.

Discussion was had that some homes have constant junk accumulating on their property and it is still there year after year. Susan informed us that the city can only do some much but in the end the property owner is ultimately responsible for their property. She said the goal of the Code Compliance is to go from re-active to a pro-active approach, with the Code Office working along with Community Members.

The following was reported:

74 High St. - trees on fence from vacant lot - who removes them?
120 Highway - junk in yard
118 Highway - need status - building has been boarded up since 2006

Planning: Nothing to report.

Beautiful Battle Creek Award: 14 Echo.

Membership: We are still looking for individual's interested in becoming members.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS: Commissioner Gray reported that the Comm. voted to spend money on equipment to maintain the new façade downtown. Don't forget to vote Nov 8. NPC 2 mtg will be Nov 14 as the election is on their meeting day.

Battle Creek Public Schools:

The School Board has voted to spend 2 million dollars on Franklin School renovations. This will result in 4/6 new classrooms and a multi-purpose room. The school staff has met with architects with their wish list to determine what can and cannot be done.

OLD BUSINESS:

As promised Susan Bedsole updated us on the updated Rental Ordinance. Discussion consisted of tracking registered rentals, zoning requirements (still enables them to enforce), nuisance abatement, and how Land Contracts are recorded and tracked. A question was asked about generating reports for the City Commission and these are not mandated but they can be generated at any time by anyone by using tools on the City's website. Susan's staff can assist if necessary.

Susan Bedsole also distributed the Property Survey Checklist and explained its components. She will update the area for the Suspected Rental portion for us, as this will make it easier on council members when we do our Dashboard Survey in the Spring 2012. Susan is currently working on a deployment plan for Code Officers that will allow neighborhoods and the Officers to proactively support one another. The council will invite Susan back in the Spring to discuss this plan. Prior to this she plans on holding Roundtable discussions with community; keep an eye for these announcements.

NEW BUSINESS:

The nomination committee presented the slate of nominee's for next year's officers. This year's nominees are: James Moreno - Chair, John Cash - Vice-Chair, and Cindy Fritz and Diana Quigg - Secretary.

No other nominee was added to the ballot and a motion was made by Gilbert and seconded by Linda to except the ballot of James and John for Chair and Vice-Chair. A unanimous vote has placed them in those positions. Ballots were distributed by the committee for the election of Secretary. After the tallying the votes: Cindy was elected as Secretary.

MEMBER COMMENTS: It was noted that when voting for a write-in candidate you also need to connect the arrow on the ballot along with writing in their name.

Public COMMENTS: None.

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Next Meeting is Dec 1, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by, Cindy Fritz, Recording Secretary