

WESTALKE/PRAIRIEVIEW NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING COUNCIL #10
Meeting Minutes
April 22, 2011

The meeting was held at First Assembly of God Church, 800 S. 24th Street, Battle Creek Michigan

Call to order & Welcome

Chair, Jeff Koteles called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Attendance:

In attendance: Chairman: Jeff Koteles, Secretary: Linda Patenaude, Diana Cole, Julie Davis, Gary Dodd, Karol Hennigar, Joyce Garrett, Cecil Salinas, Nancy Slocum, Mary Lynn Smith, Mike Troutman, David Weaver

Commissioners: Mayor-Susan Baldwin, Vice-mayor-Chris Simmons, Andy Yankama, Elizabeth Fulton, Dave Walters, Diane Thompson, Bill Morris

Guests- Tom Frame, Jeff Domenico, Charles Eppright, Scott Ganton, John Kenefick, Mary Lou Ramon, Bob Slocum, Kevin Smith, Dick & Marilyn Wallace

City staff: Neighborhood Services: Marcie Gillette, Police Officer Winer

Chair Notes/Correspondence/Announcements: Jeff Koteles

The bylaws committee will meet May 21st at McDonalds on Columbia at 1:00pm to discuss possible changes. Membership is being handled by Jeff and Linda. If you have concerns over membership they can be discussed along with the bylaws on the special May 21st meeting. Prospective members are always welcomed.

Minutes

David Weaver motioned to approve the February NPC minutes as written with a second by Joyce Garrett. The motion was unanimously approved. Diana Cole provided notes from the March meeting, though not an official meeting since there was not a quorum.

Police Report:

Officer Winer passed out written police reports. Warm weather brings out crime. Don't hesitate to call police if you see something suspicious. Patrol officers are back to one per car again, rather than doubling up. Officer Winer was asked to check into speeding in the neighborhood.

Public Service Announcements from Commissioners:

- Mayor Baldwin: The commission has been busy with the rental ordinance and it has been adopted. The budget workshops are being set-up now and the goal is to have a budget by the first of June.
- Dave Walters: Spoke about the new assisted living facility being proposed in Jacaranda
- Elizabeth Fulton Welcomed everyone and if anyone had any questions to contact her.
- Andy Yankama: Interested in the downtown development and bond debt.
- Vice-mayor Chris Simmons wants public input on budget tightening. He also spoke about the city recommended boiled water order that caused some confusion He explained it was only for a short block of Michigan Ave downtown.
- Diana Thompson Spoke about the budget and the patience of everyone while the downtown road work is being done.
- Bill Morris- spoke about the BID and a new marketing campaign, concerns over storm water drainage, and possible lighting and sidewalks. The city is working with Gary's Grinding Service building as it is unsafe.

Committee Reports:

- a. Membership : A few members called in. Possible changes to membership practices will be reviewed at the special meeting on the 21st. We currently have 23 members
- b. Beautiful Battle Creek Award: Joyce Garrett motioned that the Council membership would do the Beautiful BC Awards. Members could bring in address at each monthly meeting that would be submitted. Mike Troutman seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
- c. CDAC: Linda Patenaude – residents will be asked to provide input later on in the summer.
- d. Neighborhood Planning- Scott Ganton will address the planning commission at 4:00pm on Wednesday, April 27th.

City Staff Report: Marcie Gillette passed out code reports and shared that property surveys were still going on. The department has new technology, hand held field modules that are making field work much more efficient. Things are electronic now, with no more pen and paper and cameras. She was asked to check into 24th St and Charles E Place with water problems around Horseshoe Pond.

Old Business:

Woodland Park: Joyce Garrett reported the clean-up on April 12th was very successful. Special thanks to the First Wesleyan Saturday group and the Starr Commonwealth youth group for their help. The city provided wood chips for the trails.

New Business:

Special Presentation: Scott Ganton spoke on his latest development project on a property of approximately 15 acres (Jacaranda III) off Helmer Road. He is asking to change zoning, from residential to a special use permit to build an assisted living facility of approximately 42,000 sq ft. He explained there is a need for more senior housing. The facility will look like the "Reflections" as far as aesthetics. Mr Ganton is the developer, and the general contractor, as he is a licensed builder. He provided plans for viewing.

Some residents of Jacaranda were opposed to the zoning change and wanted to keep the property zoned as residential.

Comments for the Good of the Order:**a. Public Comments**

- Comments and questions were made by the public on the Ganton project zoning changes.
- A question about code officer's access to homes and privacy issues was asked of the commissioners.
- Stemming from the commissions non-approval of one of the members who was up for renewal, a question came from a member about the criteria or vetting process for being a member of a Neighborhood Council. Mayor Susan Baldwin explained that it is the responsibility of the commission to make sure that the committees and councils remain open and productive when approving members and not everyone is automatically renewed or placed on boards. There weren't specific criteria in writing.

b. Member Comments

-Members voiced opinions on the proposed project on Helmer. Mike Troutman motioned to send a letter of support to the Planning commission on the Helmer project that was seconded by Joyce Garrett. After discussion, Mr Troutman amended his original motion with Joyce Garrett's support to: The council will send a letter to the Planning Commission letting them know that Mr Ganton had appeared before the Council with his plans.

Next Meeting: Monday, May 23rd, 2011

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 8:25pm

Submitted by Secretary, Linda Patenaude