

WESTALKE/PRAIRIEVIEW NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING COUNCIL #10
Meeting Minutes
February 28, 2010

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

Members Present: Chairman Jeff Koteles, Secretary Linda Patenaude, Mary Lou Ramon, Cal Canfield, Diana Cole, Cecil Salinas, Gary Dodd, Dave Weaver, and Tom Cramutolo. (9 Members Present)

Excused: Danyelle Bradshaw, Opal Bell, Julie Davis, Mary Lyn Smith, Melinda Adams, Karol Henegar, Joe Ratti, Joyce Garrett, Teri Walbeck, Jim Walbeck, Gary Blagg, Pete Francisco, Neils Magnusson, and Nancy Slocum.

Special Guests Present: Commissioner Elizabeth Fulton, Commissioner Dave Walters, and Joel Fulton. (3 Guests Present)

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

Grand Total Present: 14 Members, Guests & Staff Present

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm by Chairman Jeff Koteles.

The invocation was led by Cecil Salinas.

Chair of the membership committee, Mary Lou Ramon, reported our membership is now at 24 members and that it is recommended to reduce our quorum to one third of the current council's membership. Linda Patenaude motioned to lower the quorum to seven, so that we are able to conduct business. It was seconded by Mary Lou Ramon. It was noted that many other NPC's have the seven member requirement. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes of the January meeting were accepted as written through a motion by David Weaver with support from Cecil Salinas.

Officer Walters provided crime statistics for our area. Retail fraud has increased in our area at the Meijer store during the last month. He shared that police units will be doubling up through July first with two officers per car to save money mainly on gasoline/maintenance. There are many new rookies in the force, 16 on the two to ten shifts. We should be looking for many upcoming supervisory changes because of retirement vacancies.

Commissioner Fulton spoke to the water and sewer rate proposed increases, and the rental ordinance. She is interested in citizen input. She also expressed her concerns over the upcoming city budget and the choices that will have to be made.

Commissioner Dave Walters introduced himself and told the group he had heard concerns from some of our NPC members and that he was available to address concerns and we could call him.

MaryLou Ramon reported JoAnn Novelli resigned from the council, since she is moving. If anyone knows of potential new members please notify her or one of the officers.

Mary Lou Ramon offered to fill the vacancy of the vice-chair position if no one else wanted to. It was decided to hold off filling the vacancy until the March meeting, allowing anyone else interested in the position time to voice their interest.

The beautiful Battle Creek Award position is vacant and members were asked if someone would like to take over or just have members nominate worthy addresses in our ward. No one volunteered to accept the position. 120 Abington Court was the nominee this month.

Linda Patenaude reported the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) committee will present their recommendations to the city commission on March first. Everyone is invited at 7:00 in council chambers.

Marcie Gillette provided written code reports for our area. The city is starting Property Surveys of the entire city in an effort to reduce blight and enforce codes. It is an exterior only inspection looking for chipping paint, rotten fascia, handrails, etc. Once your home has been inspected you will receive a door hanger to let you know it has been completed.

Joel Fulton provided a presentation on "The Positive Impact of Firearms on Society" Members learned about the history of citizens' rights to bear arms and about firearms safety and use in self defense.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm.
Respectfully submitted by Linda Patenaude

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 call 966-3387 or 966-3348. Deputy Police Chief Jim Saylor may be reached directly at 966-3375 with any police concerns occurring outside of the meeting time.

Memo: Please call Chairman Koteles at 963-7096, Secretary Linda Patenaude at 962-8514 or email her at LPTAGURU@aol.com, 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.