

MINUTES

Minges Brook/Riverside Neighborhood Planning Council (NPC) #11

Riverside Elementary School Library
650 Riverside Drive, Battle Creek, MI 49015
Wednesday January 26, 2011

1. **7:00 PM – Welcome and opening** Randall welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. **Attendance sheet:** Randall Champlin, John Godfrey, Dave Hawks, Dawn Hawks, Rudy Barda, Marge Barda, Joe Goss, Susan Bedsole, Rick Baron, Commissioner Fulton, George Vallillee, Bev Gallillee, Andy Yankama, Jan Barry, Wendy Rominger, Ann Wyson, Jim Baldwin, Susan Baldwin, Jim Haadsma (arrival 7:22)
3. **Additions or deletions to this agenda** None
4. **Approval of the combined November/December meeting's minutes** It was moved and supported by Godfrey/Rominger that the November/December Meeting's minutes be approved. Motion passed.
5. **Correspondence sent/received** – On January 31 there will be a meeting of City Commission and Planning Committee.
6. **City staff reports**
 - Police Department Report: Officer Busch reported there is a good deal of breaking and entering and larceny crimes. George Vallillee asked about the number of new officers and how this is possible with so many areas reducing numbers. Battle Creek is able to do this as the City was to receive a grant and needed to increase the number of officers on duty to receive the grant. John Godfrey asked if there are any issues with Compassion Clubs in the City. One club has closed; otherwise, there has not been too much activity regarding them.
 - City representative Susan Bedsole: Susan brought in a couple of Permit Reports for building, electrical, mechanical and plumbing. On March 7, code-wise, property surveys will be done. Every house will be visited looking for exterior violations; our code officer is Jason Francisco. Purpose is to update records, determine rentals, and the minimum housing code standard be maintained. This is exterior only. Joe Goss asked what determines sidewalk removal depth on private property. If there is snow, it should be removed.
 - City/County Commissioners' reports: Mayor Susan Baldwin reported the medical marijuana ordinance moratorium has been passed for six months; rental housing is being looked at with a roundtable discussion that went well with landlords and city commissioners; downtown transformation is going to be actively going on this summer; February 15 at Burnham Brook a meeting will be held on what is going to be done this summer downtown; Fort Custer has activity going on with construction at Roessler US with increase in its employment; Next Alternative, a new company, is looking at bringing 117 employees, a battery manufacturer, etc.; there is cleaning up of a brown field on Elm Street. The City has had a great deal of retirements in the last year – this helps the budget of the City. The Calhoun County Challenge is a partnership with the Regional Health Alliance and others to address overweight residents. The Challenge is for residents to lose over 100,000 pounds in Calhoun County. There are over 500 people registered to do this. Question asked on what is the status on the new runway at the airport. The Mayor said the runway is under construction and believes it will be operational in 2012. Andy Yankama reported on a study being done on sidewalk safety for Minges Brook students. Elizabeth Fulton reported on

various commission meetings January 31, February 6 and February 15. She reminded folks to contact her with any situations with which she could help.

- Jim Haadsma reported on new appointments within the County Commissioners and the continued desire to provide the most services for budget means. Hazardous waste can be dropped off at Kalamazoo County site along with four times a year by the Toeller Building. This is a wise use of county funds and improved services for the residents.

7. Committee reports

- Beautiful Battle Creek Award – Ann Wyson; Ann reported Kristin Bishop at 164 Sheffield Road was the recipient for November.
- Community Development Advisory Council (CDAC) and Membership – Wendy Rominger – reported on the Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) program and distribution of funds. There were more applicants for fund than funds available. This is always the case. The council made recommendations to the City Commission on the best use of the block grant funds.
- Neighborhoods and Land Use – John Godfrey - John, on the Downtown Partnership Board, reported Elwell's Salon was asked to move from McCamly Place with 45 days notice. Souvenirs of Kellogg's will be sold at that site. Two hair salons have come from this move of Elwell's – Elwell's and Lynnlvan – both located on Michigan Avenue. Malia's has opened in the former BC Bistro space. Two new restaurants are coming: East Egg doing breakfast and lunch across from Acadia's and another will be an afternoon/dinner/tavern at 90 East Michigan Avenue.
- NPC 11 Programs – James Haadsma - Jim Rutherford, health officer for the county, will speak here in February.

8. Old business from previous meetings: None

9. New business

- **This month's program** – Mary Butler with Heritage Battle Creek. You have probably heard Mary on the WBCK program "Dates and Flakes in Battle Creek History". Mary made a very informative presentation. Heritage of Battle Creek is a newer name for the Historical Society of Battle Creek. She shared stories on Goguac Lake from years ago. 1870's through 1930's it was a very popular site. It was also settled by the Potawatomi Indians in early times. First settlers settled in openings around Goguac Lake. People came to Goguac Lake for boating not as much for swimming. It was a place for the socially elite and very wealthy. Mary reported on Surby's Hotel and Chamberlain Hotel on Picnic Island. Mary's presentation was filled with information and picturesque facts. The Lake used to provide the water supply for the city. There were many legal battles over lake residents' private property rights vs. the government's authority to control resources for the public use. These ended when the Verona Well Field site was selected for the city water. Mary told us that many of the historical facts she has collected came from Willard Library records for the Battle Creek Moon Journal



The Moon Journal published from 1915 - 1940

10. Public comments Mary Butler was very much appreciated!

11. Members' comments. None

12. Next meeting: Wednesday, February 23, 2011 7:00PM, Riverside Elementary Library

- Program Topic: Tentatively Jim Rutherford, Health Officer, Calhoun County Public Health Department to speak on the Enbridge oil spill clean-up efforts.

13. 8:28 PM – Adjournment