

MINUTES

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

Riverside Elementary School Library

650 Riverside Drive, Battle Creek, MI 49015

Wednesday, March 23, 2011

1. **7:00 PM – Welcome and opening** Randall welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. **Attendance sheet:** Randall Champlin, Frank Eglund, Rick Baron, Marge Barda, Susan Bedsole, Commissioner Fulton, George Vallillee, Bev Gallillee, Jan Barry, Mark Barry, Wendy Rominger, Jim Haadsma (arrived at 7:20 pm); Visitors: Mary Martin, Jane Church, Lindy Kurti, Zane Mead, Dave Walters
3. **Additions or deletions to this agenda** None
4. **Approval of the February meeting minutes** It was moved and supported by Eglund/Vallillee, G. that the February Meeting's minutes be approved as amended. Motion passed.
5. **Correspondence sent/received** – Battle Creek Area Transportation, toxic waste pickup printouts were passed out.
6. **City staff reports**
 - Police Department Report: No representative was present. Marge Barda reported of a home invasion on the 700 block of Morningside two days prior to this meeting.
 - City representative Susan Bedsole: Susan reported on the home inspections that are taking place in our NPC. You should get a door hanger if the house passed. We lost about 1,700 in the County from the new census data. BC down 1017 people. City is still over 50K people so no big impact on how the federal government classifies the city.
 - City/County Commissioners' reports: Commissioner Fulton reported there is a \$2 million shortfall out of approximately a \$60 million budget. Commissioner Walters reported that the commissioners are meeting one-on-one with the city manager discussing the budget.
 - Jim Haadsma - He reported that on the 7th of April there will be a meeting for discussion of the trail alliance proposal to put a trailway through Ott Preserve will be determined. Most contacts to him have been in support of keeping the trail in its natural form. There is an effort to make the trail as a link with the KalHaven Trail.
7. **Committee reports**
 - Beautiful Battle Creek Award – Ann Wyson; Ann was not in attendance and there is no nominee for this Award.
 - CDAC and Membership – Wendy Rominger – Wendy reported that CDAC was presented to the City Commission.
 - Neighborhoods and Land Use – John Godfrey – John was not in attendance this evening.
 - NPC 11 Programs – James Haadsma will provide us with a program for next month.
8. **Old business from previous meetings:**
 - i. Wed Feb 23, 2011 Chair appoints nominating committee

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- ii. Wed Apr. 27, 2011 Nominating Committee stale of officers
- iii. Wed. May 25, 2011 Officers elected

9. **New business**

This month's program – Program Topic: Project CCH Restore! 2010 Lindy Kurti, Jane Church and Mary Martin spoke about the improvements made to the aging landscaping in Country Club Hills neighborhood boulevards (common areas) and the process involved in making it happen. The neighborhood consists of about 200 homes. Lindy Kurti gave a brief history of the area.. Country Club hill formed in 1923. It was pasture. John Rolfe owned the land and John R Street is named after him. An interesting fact is that John was a descendant of the John Rolfe that married Pocahontas. Lindy commented the mission of the committee was unified and was one of neighborhood improvement. The committee defined its objectives and set to work to complete the landscaping improvement project. Detailed notes were kept of the project along with communication to the neighborhood residents. Detailed fund accounting was kept – fund management. Permanent records were kept for when the next generation takes the leadership. This project began in March of 2010 and was completed eight months later. Jane Church reported on her involvement in the project – looking at what needed to be done and getting professional landscaping help to do it. Grants were applied for and a budget of costs was formed, along with a written plan of what the results would look like. Flyers, etc. were distributed informing neighbors what was happening and recruiting neighbors. About 40 Michigan Youth Academy students volunteered help. Donations were made from individuals; some donations were made through residents employment companies with a matching fund. The legal aspects were covered with the Department of Public Works. Monies were set aside as a maintenance fund with two years budgeting – some of these monies come from dues of the neighbor residents as well as money set aside from grants. Every resident is asked to give \$30-\$40 a year to keep this landscaping improvement project alive and beautiful. There is about 50% involvement in paying dues. For this summer, Mary Martin reported, that the Country Club Hills common areas will be on the Leila Arboretum Society Garden Tour (June 25-26),. There will be history notes available, also identification of plants in the common areas. The common areas include four islands and quite a few areas in the boulevards. About 40 trees were removed and about 42 were planted. Sixty–seventy households were involved in some way.

- 10. **Public comments** Jane Church commented on the overuse of stop signs on Country Club Boulevard.
- 11. **Members' comments** Frank Egland commented that a church member told him the Enbridge Company handled his affairs well.
- 12. **Next meeting: Wednesday, April 27, 2011, 7:00PM, Riverside Elementary Library**
 - Program Topic: TBD
- 13. **8:12 PM – Adjournment**