

Minutes

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

Riverside Elementary School Library
650 Riverside Drive, Battle Creek, MI 49015
Wednesday May 25, 2011

1. **7:00 PM – Welcome and opening**
2. **Attendance sheet:** Frank Eglund, Randall Champlin, Jim Haadsma, BCPD Officer Nick Woolman, Dave Hawks, George and Bev Vallillee, John Godfrey, Frank Eglund, John Macfarlane, Joyce Bishop. Wendy Rominger, Elizabeth Fulton, Susan Bedsole, Palmer Frost, Patti Staib, Jenny Andrews.
3. **Approval of the April 27th meeting's minutes motion by Jim Haadsma, support by Wendy Rominger.**
4. **Correspondence sent/received -**
5. **City staff reports -**
 - Police Department Report Office Woolman
 - City representative Susan Bedsole: Un-maintained lawns: to be reported to the city weeds must be a minimum of 9 inches for the city to start action. The city sends a notice and gives the person 10 days to respond. Then it gets put on the cycle to be mowed. That could be several weeks. There will only be about 3 mowing cycles for this growing season. The contact for weed control is Sherry Cunningham.
 - Wendy wants to have something cut down at Edgehill Place near Riverside. It blocks the view. Jim Haadsma has ask someone on the DPW to take a look at the trees at Ridgeway and Country Club Dr, and Country Club and Moorland.
 - Randall Champlin ask Susan about the house that was rehabbed at 67 College St. for \$189,040 and is expected to sell for around \$70,000. Susan stated that she felt this was a good investment in the neighborhood because it would cost a lot to have the hazardous material removed and it would avoid a home in disrepair or another vacant lot. A vacant lot pays no property tax. The program requires that the home be sold to a low-income candidate. Dave Hawks expressed concern that the home might be rehabbed and then sold to someone that would not properly maintain the property. Susan indicated that potential buyers are screened to select good candidates. Randall Champlin commented that this only seems to make sense when you are spending someone else's money for the rehab of the house. Susan indicated that it is often the roll of government to support programs that private investment would not support. John Godfrey mentioned that Habitat for Humanity also screens clients for their ability to maintain the house they get. Commissioner Elizabeth Fulton stated that she also was concerned about spending so much to rehabilitate a house that would sell for a fraction of that cost. However once she talked to city staff and saw the "big picture" she supported the program.
 - City/County Commissioners' reports – Elizabeth Fulton – There city is considering a \$1.50 per household tax increase to make up a gap in city income vs spending.
 - John McFarlain – ask a question about Willard Beach. The park improvement plan was changed by charging admission. The pedestrian gate on Jennings landing was removed. Probably because of the admission charge is now in effect for the park. John wants the gate opened. The city could issue tickets to cars that park on the road there. The city removed the gate because the locked gate was vandalized. John make the point that the gate was only

vandalized because it was locked. It should be left open so that residents have a local entrance to the park.

- Jim Haadsma – WKK foundation funded a \$825k grant for nursing education. County Commissioner Haadsma wanted people to know that it is not from the county budget.

6. Committee reports

- Beautiful Battle Creek Award – Ann Wyson; - Congratulations to Dawn Hammond – 233 N. Chapel Hill Dr.
- CDAC and Membership – Wendy Rominger – Nothing new
- Neighborhoods and Land Use – John Godfrey – Planning commission meeting today. NPC3 vacant building near the medical center was one of the subjects. Committee is working to bring zoning and planning code in line with state code.
- NPC 11 Programs – James Haadsma – no topic for the September at this time

7. Old business from previous meetings:

- Reminder of Nominating Committee responsibilities:
 - i. Wed Feb 23, 2011 Chair appoints nominating committee
 - ii. Wed Apr 27, 2011 Nominating Committee slate of officers
 - iii. Wed May 25, 2011 Election: Motion that the entire Slate of Officers be elected made by George Vallillee with support by Dave Hawks. Motion passed unanimously.
 1. Officers for 2011/2012 Chair: Randall Champlin, Vice Chair Jim Haadsma, Secretary: Open,
 2. Committee Chairs: Beautiful Battle Creek Award: Ann Wyson, Membership and CDAC Wendy Rominger, Programs Jim Haadsma, Neighborhoods and Land Use: John Godfrey

8. New business

- **Summer Schedule reminder**
 - June 2011 No Meeting
 - July 2011 No Meeting
 - Aug 2011 No Meeting
 - Wed Sep 28, 2011 – Reconvene

This month's program – Patti Staib, Executive Director and Jenny Andrews, Board of Directors, of the Battle Creek Charitable Union. Next year the Charitable will be 125 Years old. This year over 400,000 items will be given away free of charge. The Charitable operated a hospital until Community hospital was started. When United Way started Charitable Union went back to gathering clothing and household items.

9. **Public comments:** None

10. **Members' comments:** None

11. **Next meeting: Wednesday, September 28th, 2011 7:00PM, Riverside Elementary Library**

- Program Topic: TBD

12. **8:30 PM – Adjournment:** Having reached the end of the agenda the meeting was Adjourned by the chair.