

Minutes

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

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

1. **7:00 PM – Welcome and opening**
2. **Attendance sheet:** James Baldwin, Randall Champlin, John Godfrey, Jim Haadsma, Dave Hawks, Wendy Rominger, Elizabeth Fulton, Marge Barda, Rudy Barda, and guest, Jeremy Andrews, George Vallillee, Bev Vallillee. Dave Walters, Randolph Kip, Zane Mead, Tim Bedsole. **Guests:** Officers Appl and Krenz, Jeremy Andrews.
3. **Approval of the Sept 28th meeting's minutes** was motioned by John Godfrey, support by Wendy Rominger.
4. **Correspondence sent/received –**
 - Copy of Oct, 20th note from L A. Parrish to NPC chair to acknowledge receipts of note to regarding NPC 11's motion to support a special use permit for child care at 723 Greenridge Rd.
 - Note from Jim Haadsma that he would be late for meeting due to Lakeview Youth Athletics ceremony
5. **City staff reports -**
 - Police Department Report - Officer Appl introduced herself and ask us for input on problems. She stated that was aware of issues regarding Minges Brook elementary school parking and speeding on Riverside drive. She stated that the BCPD would continue to monitor that take action when appropriate on those items. Randolph Kip ask why the speed limit on Chappell Hill was posted at 15 MPH. Officer Appl said she would look into that. John Godfrey suggested that chair contact Traffic Engineering Manager Gregory Rickmar to invite him to speak at one of our meetings.
 - City representative Susan Bedsole: Out of the office for training.
 - City/County Commissioners' reports:.
 1. Commissioner Fulton reminded everyone to get out and vote! She also inquired about traffic on Capital Ave.
 2. Dave Walters noted:
 - a. That there would be a 7:00PM at Burnham Brook Tea Party candidate forum on Oct 27th.
 - b. That Access Vision had forums with the commissioners that would be aired on the local TV.
6. **Committee reports**
 - Beautiful Battle Creek Award – Ann Wyson; - None
 - CDAC and Membership – Wendy Rominger – Orientation is November 9th. Funding reductions are expected
 - Neighborhoods and Land Use – John Godfrey –

- i. Emily Andres's home is vacant – Mr. Godfrey noted that the term “assisted living” is another term for adult foster care
 - ii. The special used permit for the Van Oosten 723 Greenridge Rd . was granted and will stay with the property.
 - iii. How can we help residences deal with non-conforming use where they have had homes before the zoning change.
 - iv. Use variances are being faded out.
- NPC 11 Programs – James Haadsma – the Nov/Dec speaker has been determined.

7. **Old business from previous meetings:** None

8. **New business:**

- This month's program – **Jeremy Andrews with Sprout Urban Farms** a grass roots effort. Received a grant to hire kids.
- Community Supported Agriculture (CSA). A CSA is where members buy a share of a farmers harvest . There are a couple of local farms that do this . Bronson hospital has one of these for 90 employees
- Jeremy leads workshops on pest management, rain barrels, and gardening topics.
- There are places in cities that are “food deserts”. A food desert is where no fresh food is within walking distance. Urban farms works to eliminate food deserts by providing vegetables to local stores.
- Contact info for Sprout Urban Farms is 269 832-0777 or sproutbc@gmail.com and www.sprouturbanfarms.com

Some of the Q&A:

How many community gardens – about 21 that Sprout was involved with.

Do they participate with the Farmers Market. Not a lot of surplus the Burmese gardens work with the Springfield farmers market.

How does a community garden work.-all kinds of ways

Do they test the soil – that is encouraged but not required. .. a thorough test could cost thousands of \$

How do you get land to use: The city has been good a letting people use vacant lots.

Freemont St is a county land bank lot.

Malia Mediterranean Bistro and Arcadia Brewery often buy from the community markets.

9. **Public comments:** none

10. **Members' comments:**

- **Dave Hawks –**
 - i. Private residence in the 2500 neighborhood of Capitol .. Has commercial vehicles parked there often but is not a commercial property. It also has a board on the window.
 - ii. At the farmers market .. looks some people are brining produce in from other out of state.. Bridget Leach runs this. The Indiana farmers are ahead of our crops. They tend to show up at the farmer markets. Dave hears that a local family can't compete with the people that come up from out of state.

- iii. Dave went to the habitat for humanity open house. – they have done a wonderful job on the home
- **Marge Barda** – There are a large number of fallen branches and leaning tree on the power lines along Riverside Dr. The recommendation is to call Consumers Power and let them know.
- **Jim Haadsma - serves** on the county budget committee.. They are trying to get the budget work done. However the Prosecuting attorney and the sheriffs department will take some time to finalize.
- There is some discussion of the county commission taking on the responsibility of the road commission. This might reduce some cost but he believes the road commission might take exception to the idea.

11. Next meeting: Holiday meeting- Wednesday, December 7th, 2011 7:00PM, Riverside Elementary Library

- Program Topic: Dale Geminder "Citizen Journalism" It is a hyper-local new and information website, where citizens of the Greater Battle Creek Area can become reporters and post stories for the community to read. Website is called BC CURRENT. <http://www.bccurrent.org/>

12. 8:15 PM – Adjournment