

**North Central Neighborhood Planning Council #2  
Meeting Minutes ~ February 8, 2011 ~ Neighborhoods, Inc.**

**1. Call to Order & Welcome:** Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Samuel Gray, Chair.

**2. Attendance-Members present:** Samuel Gray, Keith McDonald, Sheryl McDonald, Dorothy Young, Kitty Hillian, Jessie Jackson-FHC, Yvonne Powell-NIBC, Betty Settles, Jeffrey Dinkins **Members Excused:** Comm. Lynn Ward Gray **Members Absent:** Steve Lee, Nina LaGrand, Rosetta Sanders and Cynthia Wyatt **City Staff:** Marcie Gillette, Officer Chad Francisco

**3. Approval of Previous Minutes:** Moved Keith McDonald & supported by Dorothy Young to approve the January 11, 2011 minutes with any necessary corrections. Motion carried.

**4. Additions or Deletions to Agenda:** None. Moved by Betty Settles & supported by Keith McDonald. Motion carried.

**5. Correspondence & Announcements:** S. Gray distributed the BCATS flyer. S. Gray mentioned receiving correspondence as Chair of the NPC from the Zoning Commission relating to Farley Estes Funeral home and their request for an addition variance for a front yard set-back related to an additional elevator. S. Gray questioned whether or not the Chairperson had to be present for these meetings. Marcie didn't think it necessarily had to be the Chair present at these meetings. Citizen put forth appeals to the Zoning Commission that deal with buildings, structures, fences, setbacks, commercial signs, placement of property physical objects in NPC 2. M. Gillette stated that there are one or two Commissioners that sit on the board. Contact Christine Hilton (269) 966-3315 to find out if any open positions on the board.

K. McDonald questioned whether or not Family Health Center and NIBC are now considered a member of NPC#2. M. Gillette responded, stating that she believed they are currently members.

**6. Battle Creek Public Schools:** None

**7. Speakers:** None

**8. Committee Reports:**

**Membership:** Betty Settles: None at this time.

**Beautiful Battle Creek Award:**

**CDAC:** Jeffrey Dinkins: Brief report. They have had an Orientation and 3 meetings. Thirteen applicants applied for CDAC monies. Unable to give a report as to who received what amount until the City Commission approves. The process was over in January. There was one allocation meeting for two funds (the community fund and a fund that the city gives).

**9. City Staff Reports:**

**Police Report:** Officer Chad Francisco indicated that the report is short in length, however, there are eight B & E's, so we still need to watch out for our neighbors, as well as make sure we are leaving on porch lights. Also Officer Francisco had suggested a house at 138 Oaklawn for the Beautiful Battle Creek Award and there was some concern as to whether or not there is running water at the home. It also appeared to have no tracks in the snow. He reviewed an e-mail he had sent to Commissioner Gray regarding his follow-up in this matter. He stated that from the outside the home appears to not have any traffic at the current time. He investigated and found that the resident Sharon Pashos provides in home care for someone during the winter months and is usually not staying there. Officer Francisco suggested that we could do the award in pairs, with the Family Health Center being the other recipient. M. Gillette stated that, "we can only do one a month; they can not be done in pairs". Officer Francisco stated "the ball is in your court", "whatever you decide to do". The home belongs to someone else, a Mr. Adams who is also an elderly gentleman, so how would we go about giving this award if she is not the true owner of the property.

## **9. City Staff Reports cont'**

M. Gillette entertained discussion regarding this, due to the fact that the award is intended for homeowners. Ms. Pashos however would be invited to the award ceremony if indeed they were chosen. Officer Francisco was wondering how that would affect the renter who is staying there and providing the upkeep. Officer Francisco ended by informing anyone who has questions regarding the Crime report can let him know and he will take those questions back to the office for follow-up.

### **City Staff Representative:**

M. Gillette distributed and discussed the Code Officers report. Property Surveys forthcoming that are due to begin March 7, 2011. They will be looking at driveways, sidewalks, exterior properties making sure they meet standards. These are usually done every three years. Mrs. Young questioned if this is also for rental properties. M. Gillette informed her this is for all properties. Marcie also stated that our hope is that there are resources out in the community that may be able to assist with some repairs. Marcie stated if there are violations with some properties that those in violation are given an opportunity to appeal. The goal is compliance, not ticketing residents. Pastor Keith asked if there is any service that will assist Senior's if there is a violation with their property. Marcie did suggest some programs through the City of Battle Creek. Marcie recommends that they start with the 211 program to assist them in this process.

### **Commissioner Comments:** None

**Membership:** Will discuss By-laws at a later date. S. Gray has done some research on this. Pastor Keith discussed membership recruitment and adding membership information to By-laws, ADHOC to review and revise information in By-laws. Ms. Settles discussed what date should be for new officer elections. M. Gillette stated that those dates are based on individual NPC's. S. Gray stated he is satisfied with the By-laws the way they are. However, we will review them and clear up some of the language. D. Young discussed having organizations as a part of the board. They can bring information that is a benefit to the council, information that we are unable to obtain ourselves.

**10. Old Business:** To have ADHOC.

**11. New Business:** Questions whether or not NPC will be making a statement related to the Medical Marijuana issue and/or making a statement related to Rental Housing Ordinance.

**12. Member & Public Comments:** Jeffrey Dinkins – Are we looking for new members? Questions regarding house on Hubbard Street that was the Community House? What is the purpose of the house? What is it suppose to be doing? Yvonne Powell, NIBC stated, they are still meeting. They did miss a few meetings but they will resume in March.

### **Public Comments:** None

**13. Next Meeting:** Tuesday, March 8, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at Neighborhoods, Inc.

14. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:14 p.m. by Samuel Gray, Chair

Respectfully Submitted: Sheryl D. McDonald, Asst. Secretary