

*Thursday, October 13, 2011
Michigan Tile & Carpet, Community Room
7-9:00 p.m.*

1. Call to Order / Time Convened: 7:00 p.m.

2. Attendance: All present signed in? Yes

Members: Cynde Foster, Phyllis Hopkins, Gloria Russo, Ward 4 City Commissioner Elizabeth Fulton, Susanne Moreno-Thurman, Joel Fulton, Trudy Hall

Absent: Vice Mayor Chris Simmons

Excused: Tim Conlogue

City Officials: Susan Bedsole, Ward 2 City Commissioner Lynn Ward-Gray

Guests: Kim Jankowski (Principal – Coburn Elementary), Dr. Garth Cooper, Springfield Elementary, Jolene Lussier, Diana Quigg, Bill Phillips (Neighborhoods, Inc.), Sam Gray and John Cash (At-Large City Commissioner Candidates)

3. Addition or Deletions to the Agenda: None.

4. Approval of the Previous Minutes: Approved August and September Minutes. Motion by Susanne Moreno-Thurman, 2nd by Cynde Foster, motion carried.

5. Correspondence and Announcements:

6. Speakers: Bill Phillips of Neighborhoods, Inc. – NIBC has been operating for 30 years and has a four point mission: 1. Financial Services (Mortgages), 2. Housing Rehabilitation, 3. Community Organizing, 4. Educational & Counseling work which has intensified. Specific information given: 1. Promoted “Rebuild the Dream” to launch and market NSP#2 which was aimed away from foreclosure and toward home ownership. At least 2/3 of homes have been sold or are under contract. Houses in NPC#3 sold the fastest and had the biggest demand. 2. Secured funding for disaster assistance grants for storm damage from Memorial Day Weekend. Must earn less than 80% of area median income to qualify and is limited to \$1500 per family. Call 968-1113 and ask for Vicky Hauser or Bill Phillips. 3. Revamping Crime Watch and renamed it Community Watch Coalition. Needs to be led and driven by community volunteers. Organized by “Battle Creek Community Watch Coalition.” Difference is that it will not be solely driven on rallies and gatherings in the street but will also want to emphasize positives in the community.

7. City Staff Reports:

a. Golden Service Reports: Susan Bedsole – Hired a new building inspector who started on Monday, Don Wilkinson. Beginning a new enforcement titled “Comprehensive Code Enforcement” which is intended to include all code violations in one holistic approach; should be more efficient and less confusing.

b. Police Department: No Officer present.

Committee Reports:

a. Commissioner Reports: Commissioner Fulton attended the Michigan Municipal League Conference in Grand Rapids. She reported that the Governor is seeking to eliminate the personal property taxes on businesses without having a negative impact on the budget. Also announced that major transportation will be affected by directing additional dollars to repairs.

b. Schools: Kim Jankowski announced the Superintendent’s Council on Monday, November 7th in the Battle Creek Central High School Commons Area.

c. Membership (new additions/deletions):

d. Beautiful Battle Creek Award: 546 Wenworth – Dave & Jennifer Ruble, Jr.

e. Businesses

8. **Old Business to be finalized:**
9. **New Business:** Jolene Lussier announced the progress she is making process on the repairs of the home she purchased on the corner of Foster and Territorial and she will eventually seek a special use permit for a hair salon out of her home.
10. **New Business for Future Meetings:**
11. **Public /Guest Comments?** Each of the Commissioner candidates were given an opportunity to introduce themselves
12. **Members Comments?**
13. **Adjournment (Time 8:08 pm)** BY: Cynde Foster, 2nd by Susanne Moreno-Thurman. Next Meeting: November 10, 2011, Michigan Tile & Carpet, Community Room, 99 East Columbia Avenue, Battle Creek, MI 49015