

Fremont/Verona/McKinley Neighborhood Planning Council

June 15, 2011

Meeting Minutes

The June 15, 2011 NPC 4 meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman David Nielsen. David Salerno volunteered to be note taker.

Attendance:

Members: Sherry Sofia, George Wilson, Laurie Sullivan, David Nielsen, Mark Jones, David Salerno, John Hennink

Guests: Marcia Holmwall, Glenn Holmwall, Mayor Susan Baldwin, Marcia Austin, City Commissioner Lynn Ward Gray, Jim Baldwin, Bill Phillips, Dennis McKinley, John Cash, County Commissioner Jim Haadsma

The minutes for the April and May NPC meetings were approved, with some minor wording changes.

Program: Bill Phillips, Neighborhoods Inc.

Bill described an initiative, called "Rebuild the Dream", to uncover a market for North side, Lakeview and Urbandale neighborhood homes, with an Open House of designated homes on July 16-17. Twenty homes in the three targeted neighborhoods are being offered for sale with particular attention to attracting prospective home buyers with attractive prices and other incentives. NIBC provides programs that educate homebuyers in financial management and home maintenance. Additionally NIBC is helping to provide emergency storm relief funding and help with foreclosures.

City of Battle Creek: Dennis McKinley:

Storm debris removal has been the priority issue since the May 29 storm. The protocol for handling uncared for properties was explained, emphasizing educating home owners/occupants on code standards before ticketing. He also explained the owner's and city's responsibilities in water line breaks.

Member concerns:

- Vacant lot at corner of East Ave. N. and Capital Ave. NE – tall grass and weeds. (**Note-** that lot has been mowed within a week following this meeting)

- New community garden at Groveland and Harvard – much brush still piled along the fence.
- St. Paul Lutheran Church is removing lights from Festival of Lights as part of a reconstruction project and wants to return them to city – NPC contact to be made with Festival of Lights chairperson as to desired disposition of lights.

City Commission: Laurie Sullivan

- Special use permit approved for allowing downtown tattoo parlor on Michigan Ave.
- The city budget was passed
- Medical marijuana issue may have an 11 month extension of the moratorium
- Estimated cost of storm damage cleanup - \$750,000
- Retroactive pay for firefighters' contract approved
- BCHS overflow parking lot at Emmett and North Ave. approved with landscaping and entrance stipulations (recommended by the NPC)

Beautiful Battle Creek Award: Two nominations made, to be worked into the current list for the summer months:

- 370 Emmett Street
- 170 Emmett Street

Neighborhood Association Updates:

- Freedom Acres – planning a neighborhood party at Quaker Park, date not confirmed yet. (**Note:** As of June 27 Freedom Acres Assoc. meeting the date has been set for September 10 from noon -4:00 p.m.)
- Block Party and Health Fair planned at Franklin, Fremont, Dudley, Prairieview, and Urbandale Schools between July 7 and August 11

NPC Membership Update:

- Gail Hayes removed from membership list – current address is out of the NPC area
- Marcia Austin, Marcia Holmwall and Glenn Holmwall unanimously recommended for NPC 4 membership, subject to City Commission approval

Member Comments:

- Letter requested in support of a grant to spay/neuter feral cats for Companion Cats - approved

Guest Comments:

- Jim Haadsma – County commissioner: Friends of the Ott Preserve and Trailway Alliance have approved a compromise for the proposed trail through the preserve; a school nurse program has been approved; estimated resources for storm cleanup from the county road commission - \$150,000
- Dennis McKinley – Building permit fees for storm damage repair are being waived for 45 days

July Agenda Planning:

Following some discussion it was unanimously approved to take a July and August vacation from the NPC meeting schedule. Members will be notified if any crucial business might require a special meeting during that time. The next NPC 4 meeting will be in September.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00

Next NPC 4 meeting:

Wednesday, September 21