

**FREMONT/McKINLEY/VERONA
NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING COUNCIL
March 16, 2011 Meeting Minutes**

Attendees:

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

Guests: Rebecca Ogradowski, Jim Baldwin, Mayor Susan Baldwin, John Cash

The March 16, 2011 meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by chairman David Nielsen. In the absence of a permanent secretary yet to be elected to replace Jana Davis, Laurie Sullivan offered to take notes of this meeting. David will compile notes for minutes until a secretary is named.

The minutes of the February 16 meeting were approved as printed.

Reports:

BCPD: Officers Mike Slack and Ryan Ricketson, currently working the 2-10 p.m. shift

1. Issued a reminder about the white male, 35-45 years, balding and heavy set attempting to pick up girls in a full-sized red pick-up truck. Help is needed to identify him.
2. Abandoned homes still a B7E problem in this area
3. Youths have been arrested for shots fired in area of Calhoun and Fremont streets
4. A Wabash Avenue meth lab was raided and the property currently condemned.
5. Officers currently doubled up in patrol cars – decreases number of patrols on the road

Member Concerns:

1. Empty alcohol bottles being thrown from cars on Calhoun and Orchard
2. Closing of North McKinley by police officers – date unknown
3. Large numbers of youth walking in the street on E. Ave. N.
4. Car stereo noise again becoming a problem in area of Latta, Harvard and Garfield – tickets issued when officers witness. Excessive car and home noise need not have a complaint filed when officers witness them
5. Does PD make use of Community Houses? – Not at this time. The day shift is short-staffed
6. Lots of “activity” noticed in house next door to Wabash Ave. community garden – has been an ongoing problem
7. Woman observed on Calhoun carrying baby overly exposed to extremely cold weather – should call 911 in such instances – probably child endangerment issue
8. How to contact PD in non-emergency situations – Use the non-emergency number: 781-0911

City of Battle Creek: Susan Bedsole

1. Property surveys: Code officers now have hand-held computers for easier property surveys. Door knockers will be left on properties with no violations. Goal is to complete 20 properties a day.
2. Child care special use permits: We are developing a check list for the process. The county has more strict guidelines that we may begin using for the city. The current permit appeal (34 Latta Street) is in the court system now.

Member Concerns:

1. Snow removal – problem along Capital Ave. NE and other locations. Suggestion to have Todd Gerber come to the NPC to explain the city's snow removal system. BC has about 300 miles of streets to plow. Some cities do not plow smaller or cul-de-sac streets.

City Commission: Laurie Sullivan and Mayor Baldwin

1. Budget shortfall between \$1.5 and 2.2 million. Budget workshops will begin in April.
2. City staff reductions from 606 staff to 516 currently
3. 911 Dispatch Fee – working on several options from population based fee to fee per call. The dispatch center is working well.

Member Concerns:

1. Will there be public meetings like the Rental Property Ordinance meetings for residents to give input and suggestions on budget issues? The city gathers data all year long from each meeting attended. There probably will not be "give and take" format meetings about the budget.

Program: Rebecca Ogradowski, Freedom Acres "Connect the Tots" program.

This is a summer program for children from 5-10 years of age, primarily living in the Freedom Acres neighborhood. It will take place on Saturday mornings from June-August, and will consist of literacy activities, art activities and a nutritious meal. This program will primarily use neighborhood volunteers. There are still several issues to be worked out before plans can be finalized.

They are also planning to begin Play Groups for toddlers and parents twice a month. This will be a support program for parents with trained coaches leading parents and children in a variety of age appropriate activities and learning experiences.

Beautiful Battle Creek Awards:

A list of about 17 nominated homes has been given to the city staff. Members are urged to bring in nominations that will be inserted into that list.

Neighborhood Association News: None

Old Business: None

New Business: We need to elect a secretary to fill out the current term.

Member/Guest Comments:

An article about group homes in our NPC will be in Sunday's Enquirer.

The draft of the 2011-2012 Annual Action Plan is available for review at the Community Development Division, Commerce Pointe and at Willard Library

April agenda planning: BCPD Chief Hampton – Warm weather issues and PD planning

Meeting adjourned (Sherry Sofia) at 8:55 p.m.