

**Urbandale Neighborhood Planning Council #5**

**Council Minutes – August 8, 2011**

Meeting at

Christ United Methodist Church

65 North Bedford Road

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Robert Whitfield, chair.

**Attendance:** Robert Whitfield, Chair; Dale Stratton; Nate Zanotti; Mason Mayo; Darling Mayo; Elaine Norby; Deborah Gregory; Al Giguere; Sara Schmanske; Rebecca Runyon; Chris Simmons; Bill Morris; David C. Moore; Ed Fletcher; Mary L. Ramon; Coby Fletcher

**Previous Minutes:** The minutes from July 11, 2011 were approved by a voice vote.

**Correspondence:** None

**Police Report:** None

**Guest Speaker:** The guest speaker was Coby Fletcher – Recently appointed Principal of Battle Creek Central High School. He shared with the committee members his experiences working with students in his previous districts as well as his vision for the students of Battle Creek Central High School.

**Commissioner's Report:** Chris Simmons spoke of the Battle Creek Tax abatement structure and the terms of 4 to 12 years. He stated that smaller companies should be at the lower end of 4 years due to the lesser investment in the local economy. In addition, the longer terms for smaller companies can provide a financial advantage due to lower loans to repay. The tax abatement committee is reviewing the current structure. Commissioner Simmons also spoke in reference to the downtown renovation and the funding from state and private grants. Downtown lighting needs to be revisited due to a shortage of funding for this project. Commissioner Bill Morris also supports the review of this expenditure to avoid exceeding the funds available for the project. Commissioner Morris also revisited his support for the 5% local preference movement to keep jobs in Battle Creek.

**School Report:** Deborah Gregory reviewed the schedule for the district audit as well as the upcoming budget revisions in the fall while emphasizing on a new beginning for the district and the programs new for 2011-2012.

**Code Report:** Al Giguere presented a written report.

**Membership:** Carl Brockman, V. Chair had an excused absence. No calls were received for the following: Joe Britwec; Stan Beckwith; Barbara Beckwith; and Ryan Ricketson

**Beautiful Battle Creek Award:** The Beautiful Battle Creek award went to 60 Miller as reported by Dale Stratton.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** Dale Stratton was nominated Citizen of the year.

**Adjournment:** Chair Whitfield adjourned the meeting at 8:10 PM

**Respectively submitted by:** Deborah L. Gregory, Secretary