

Urbandale Neighborhood Planning Council #5
Council Minutes – June 13, 2011
Meeting at
Christ United Methodist Church
65 North Bedford Road

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM by Robert Whitfield, chair.

Attendance: Robert Whitfield, Chair; Dale Stratton; Nate Zanotti; Mason Mayo; Darling Mayo; Elaine Norby; Deborah Gregory; Al Giguere; Joe Britwec; Sara Schmanske; Rebecca Runyon; Chris Simmons; Bill Morris; Stan Beckwith; Barbara Beckwith; Susan Baldwin; and Ryan Ricketson

Previous Minutes: The minutes from May 09, 2011 meeting were approved by a voice vote.

Correspondence: None

Police Report: Officer Ricketson discussed the decline in vehicle and property larcenies in the Urbandale area. This decline is attributable to an upturn in case cracking as well as the continuing efforts of the gang unit currently in place.

Guest Speaker: There was no guest speaker scheduled for this meeting. This allowed the council to discuss membership renewal and deletion. The following changes are being submitted to the City Commission for approval:

Submission to the City Commission for new membership: Barbara Beckwith & Stan Beckwith

Submission to the City Commission for membership renewal: Dale Stratton

Submission to the City Commission for membership deletions: Jerry Jackson & Robbie Donley

The following two members are under motion for review until further notice / action is taken by the council: Marilyn Roberts & Bonita Haney

Commissioner's Report: Chris Simmons spoke of the Battle Creek Budget being completed with a 1.2 million cut in expenditures. Collaborative efforts with Springfield are being explored to reduce expenditures and share revenues. There has been a three year history of cuts. However the impact on services has been minimal. Assessments have reduced while income taxes are up due to residents going back to work. The city is utilizing the rainy day fund to assist with the storm cleanup effort. Mayor Susan Baldwin discussed the department of corrections assisting with the storm clean up as well. She also urged citizens with damage to call 211 to report the storm damage so that a collection of data can be completed to qualify for state and federal funding. Bill Morris spoke briefly on the workshop for "Local Preference" to keep jobs locally. He also commended Commissioner Simmons for his contribution to the residents of the City of Battle Creek.

School Report: Deborah Gregory reviewed the current schedule for the district budget adoption for the upcoming fiscal year as well as briefly reviewed budget cuts by the state of Michigan. In addition, questions were answered in reference to teacher tenure reform.

Code Report: Al Giguere discussed the slowdown in compliance issues due to the storm damage and the resources being needed in that cleanup effort. In addition, he stated that of the 62 code compliance issues, 33 were attributable to weeds.

Membership: Carl Brockman, V. Chair had an excused absence.

Beautiful Battle Creek Award: The Beautiful Battle Creek award went to 247 Kellogg as reported by Dale Stratton.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Adjournment: Chair Whitfield adjourned the meeting at 8:00 PM

Respectively submitted by: Deborah L. Gregory, Secretary