

**Urbandale Neighborhood Planning Council #5  
Council Minutes – November 14, 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; Deborah Gregory; Sara Schmanske; Rebecca Runyon; Walt McIlroy; Officer Adam Pembroke; Carl Brockman; Joy Brown; David Moore; Stan Beckwith; Joe Britvec; Barbara Beckwith; Al Giguere; Ken Tsuchiyama; Chris Simmons; Mary Lou Ramon; Diane Thompson; Elaine Norby; Edward Fletcher

**Previous Minutes:** The minutes from October 10, 2011 were approved by a voice vote.

**Correspondence:** None

**Police Report:** Q & A only

**Guest Speaker:** Ken Tsuchiyama – City of Battle Creek - reviewed several topics such as budget reductions of \$4.2 million matching the drop in the revenue projected. Despite reductions in expenditures, services will still be provided. An 8% reduction in the workforce was experienced through attrition paired with no raises since 2008 for most employees. The City bond rating has improved. Mr. Tsuchiyama also discussed the downtown transformation and the efforts to bring in new businesses and employment to the downtown area.

**Commissioner's Report:** Newly elected commissioner Mary Lou Ramon was introduced - While Chris Simmons and Diane Thompson were acknowledged for the service and contribution to the Battle Creek Community.

**School Report:** Deborah Gregory discussed the Math and Science Center groundbreaking and shared photos of the proposed structure once complete. Also questions were asked in reference to the empty BCPS buildings. Ms. Gregory informed the group that a study was currently underway on this issue.

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

**Membership:** None

**Beautiful Battle Creek Award:** The Beautiful Battle Creek award went to 42 South Mason as reported by Dale Stratton.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** Al Giguere submitted his resignation as a code compliance officer. Realtor Joy Brown requested the Planning Council's support for the rezoning of an apartment at 1743 Michigan / Stringham Rd prior to submitting to the City for approval. The request for the Council's approval passed 9 for and 2 against.

**Adjournment:** Chair Whitfield adjourned the meeting at 8:12 PM

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