

UNITED GROWTH FOR KENT COUNTY

3/8/08 Board Meeting Minutes

PRESENT: Paul Haan, Christine Helms-Maletic, Bonnie Blackledge, Mike Williams, Kendra Wills Herb Ranta, Cynthia Price

MINUTES: Herb moved to approve, Mike seconded, and the motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT: THE RNC got \$15,000 from Dyer-Ives .Kendra wanted to make sure that everybody is comfortable that when we do memberships through PayPal, they take a little bit out. We also got a \$1500 sponsorship from Heffron for the newsletter; we need to be sure they get bang for the buck. We considered printing a coupon – “mention you heard it here.” Bonnie moved, Christine seconded that we accept the treasurer's report, and the motion carried.

BOARD CANDIDATES: The board functions as the nominating committee. We decided that people should have at least one year as members before they serve on the board, to be sure they have experience with the organization. Bonnie had offered to step down if needed because this year is so busy for her with elections, but if we nominate Kim VanDyk, Cynthia, Christine and Kevin said that will not be necessary. Mike so moved, Bonnie will not need to step down. Mike so moved, seconded by Herb. The motion carried. There was an additional candidate who threw his hat into the ring, Wes Dykstra, and Paul will contact him to let him know that as a new member he was not eligible.

CLEAN KENT COUNTY: We had decided to defer the decision on endorsing unless there was an actual ask, and now there is. We felt that they have not done enough work to determine the status, and to get their feelings on ordinances, etc. If the organizers of the Clean Kent County want the county commission to do something, they need to work with staff particularly since Steve Petrides at the meeting indicated the Environmental Health Department is already doing something. We were not as comfortable with the initiative's confrontational style and we'd like to see more detail about the recommendation. We endorse the goal of eliminating raw sewage leaks, but urge them to do more before making recommendations we can endorse. Mike moved that we take that stance. After further discussion, Christine seconded. Paul said he would be happy to meet with the initiative's leaders. The motion passed unanimously. Cynthia said she would look over her notes and send out a draft letter for board approval.

ROCKFORD CONSTRUCION NEWSLETTER SPONSOR: Bonnie had approached them but they declined; they did not view it s marketing but rather as a charitable contribution.

We thought we might be able to go back with a demonstrated benefit.

MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN: The March annual meeting comes before most members will renew. We decided that if people join they can still vote at the March meeting.

MARCH 18 ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA: We reviewed the agenda. Mike Hamm will be the speaker. We will pass out the ballots at the start and collect the ballots before Mike starts to speak, then announce the results after his presentation. We need to send out the slate.

We also need to be clear about how our finances are split currently. Kendra will have the calendar of events to hand out. There will be 5-minute committee updates.

MARCH 20 FOUNDERS EVENT: Christine is checking on this with Founders. We will go ahead and have the event whether there is a tour or not.

EVALUATIONS: Kendra hasn't been keeping track of volunteer time, etc., for the Kellogg Grant so she asked us to do a better job in the future.

Kendra announced that we got our State of Michigan charitable license.

Respectfully submitted,
Cynthia Price