

## **UNITED GROWTH FOR KENT COUNTY**

### **8-6-08 Board Meeting Minutes**

Present: Christine Helms-Maletic, Herb Ranta, Kim VanDyk, Paul Haan, Kendra Wills, Cynthia Price, Kevin Wisselink. Chairperson Paul Haan called the meeting to order at 10:25 a.m.

MINUTES: Christine moved we approve both May and June minutes; Kim seconded but pointed out that her name was spelled wrong. The motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT: We reviewed the documents Kendra provided, and talked about various items. The Land Preservation Guide is done, but \$2000 is still in the account. People commented that it was a great piece and should be promoted. In terms of revenue, we need to be sure we're taking in what we planned to. Cynthia moves we accept, Christine seconds. Motion carried.

CONSIDERATION OF UGKC ENDORSEMENT OF COUNTY FUNDING FOR PDR: Gary Rolls of the Kent County Commission was circulating a sign-on request, which we discussed. We support some level and/or method of county funding – some of the opponents of funding are not anti-PDR, some are just anti-funding; after the recent election results, 10 of 19 are likely to vote for funding. Cynthia moves to support, Herb seconds. The ag board got a presentation from MSU Land Policy Institute – there's a chart to look at. Cynthia thinks we should put forward ideas about funding mechanisms, based on some of what Dave Guikema and others researched early in UG's history, as our contribution. Would the LPE committee be interested? We could do it as a press release or a presentation. Kendra thought it was probably better for LPE efforts to be conducted separately and thought a one-time committee should hammer it out. Tom Postmus is running against Carol Hennessy who is anti-PDR-funding. Kim jokingly suggested injecting fear into the campaign. Motion carried. Individuals should also sign on if they feel moved. (Several at the meeting did.)

DIVERSITY PLAN: Our request for Green Citizen funding to the Dorothy Johnson Center was turned down and one of their comments was about diversity of leadership. Healthy Homes Coalition also got turned down at one point, and created a diversity plan to address the lack of people of color in leadership roles. Christine said she asked the Johnson Center for help with a Midtown funding application. We agreed we really do need more people of color involved, funding notwithstanding. We discussed committees in terms of getting people of color involved. It's probably not a good idea to throw someone right into the board work; often people of color complain about feeling used that way, and that they don't have the training or background therefore to be good board members. Cynthia pointed out that there used to be 2 people of color back when the board was a project management team. Paul submitted the model HHC used, and will send it out electronically. We don't have a cap on number of board members; need 2 or 3 more people on the board in order to feel represented. We have a policy that you have to be a member of the Coalition for a year before serving on the board. Cynthia suggested Cindy (not sure of last name) from Disability Advocates. We asked Kendra to draft a diversity plan, working from Paul's model. Add 1 per year. We need all kinds of diversity, not just racial.

NETWORKING LUNCHEON: This will be at Boulder Creek. ICCF was considered; but Boulder Creek is more affordable, it's a country club off of E. Beltline, Plainfield Twp. There will be a local food offering; Denny Heffron sells meat to them. Room rental is \$0, plated seated lunch \$12 per person. Last year we had about 55 – we would like to see more. Existing state reps would be in session unless we hold it Monday or Friday. We decided on Sept. 15. We want to encourage people to carpool; the building is fully acceptable. – would it be accessible? If there was someone County connection. Generate a list of those who would be willing to carpool. County Connection – one or two at most. Offer it. And do carpooling. Has a lift, fully accessible. We will cover the cost.

We decided it should be a legislative candidate forum, focusing on county commissioners. State representatives and senators would be invited, but not part of the forum. We thought it would be a good idea to send them questions a week in advance, with a caution to answer briefly.

**KORTH LECTURE SERIES (LAND CONSERVANCY):** There is no cost to co-sponsor this annual event, just that we get the word out to our constituency. Cynthia moves, Herb seconds we co-sponsor. The motion passed with very little discussion.

**AUGUST 12 TV SHOWCASE:** Sister Barbara does a weekly show, we would have a 15 minute slot. Cynthia had already volunteered to speak, Kendra will see if Marsha Wilcox will also. We are asked to submit questions in advance.

**NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE:** We will try to use Meeting Wizard to call a meeting. Herb will come when he can, and Bonnie Blackledge said she would be on the committee. Kendra will ask Jay Hoekstra. Heffron is a sponsor, so there is a good tie-in if we focus on PDR. We would also like to focus on “ten years of United Growth.” We could advertise in the newsletter for people to send their favorite UGKC memory.

**FURTHER TO LAND USE LUNCHEON; PARTY IN MARCH:** Dave Guikema is retiring in February, so we decided to give the stewardship award to him. We would also like to have a party in March, focusing on Dave and on the 10-year anniversary, where the responses to the “favorite memory” would be presented. It could be an event just for fun. We hope to create a rotating PowerPoint presentation about 10 years of United Growth to show at the event.

**COALITION MEETING AGENDA:** Dan Litchfield of Iberdrola wind energy company has confirmed. The agenda presented looked good. We also thought we should see if people wanted to be members of the PDR funding mechanism committee. Paul will be absent. Kendra will ask if Mike Williams can chair. Cynthia asked if we could revisit newsletter committee membership.

**OLD BUSINESS: BOARD CALLS FOR MEMBERSHIP:** Most board members had forgotten and were not sure whom they should call. A few had been successful in getting memberships. We are still not up to where we should be.

**GREEN CITIZEN:** Dorothy Johnson had turned this down because they had many other requests; they thought that Green Citizen was more of a programmatic rather than a capacity-building project. They said you need to go to the other funders in the area. Carol was thinking we could try Steelcase, check to see if it fits with any of Grand Rapids Community Foundation’s specific objectives. GRCF very specific things. Since it is a small amount, possibly a company might underwrite it. A sister of one of the interns (Blake) works in marketing at a large firm, and will make the ask. Holly, who has been spearheading it, is only here for 2 more weeks. Cynthia reported that the committee did meet and is revising the list of questions. Only she and Mary Jane Robinson (plus Carol and Holly) attended.

**BUDGET QUESTION:** Kendra asked if we can vote to print the brochure on acronyms, which intern Holly Zoe and Carol had created, out of the printing line item. We agreed, though cautioned we have to be careful in expenditures.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Community Media Center is having an annual meeting Aug. 19. They partner with us on our web site and would have on Green Citizen if we had gotten the go-ahead.

We adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Cynthia Price