

## **UGKC BOARD MEETING MINUTES DECEMBER 3, 2008**

Present: Paul Haan, Mike Williams, Kendra Wills, Herb Ranta, Kevin Wisselink, Christine Helms-Maletic, Cynthia Price.

Minutes: People read them over. Herb moved, Mike seconded that they be approved. Passed.

EVENTS COMMITTEE: Cynthia asked if it came up at the November coalition meeting, asking for volunteers? People who were able to respond said that presenter Bauer took up the whole time.

TREASURER'S REPORT: We are anticipating a \$5700 or so carry-forward. Calendar year is our fiscal year. There are still a few bills to pay; without Dyer-Ives balance is \$5900 or so – we have the Dyer Ives money in the Comerica Account. Dyer-Ives grant needs to be kept separately. There have been expenditures against it. We're all square with the Attorney General's office as far as Michigan charitable solicitation license – we didn't fill out the EZ tax form – it was not formerly required but is now. We have been waiting for the license for six months. Christine advised that we call them to follow up. An organization is in violation of state law if it receives funds and doesn't have a charitable solicitation license. As far as the revenues and expenses for 2008, we will end up not much different than at the beginning of the year. Mike moved to accept the treasurer's report, Kevin seconded. Motion carried.

BUDGET: We went over the proposal, developed by a small group meeting in November. Merry did a history of UGKC membership and last year was our best year – it didn't meet our projections but the budget is more reality-based this year. The annual report would be a hard copy in the newsletter. Herb read the requirements for a 501c3's annual report – it must be presented at an annual meeting. Assts, liabilities, principal changes in them must be included; it may be transmitted electronically as long as a written copy is sent on request. We need to get another newsletter done by March, in order to distribute early in the year. We also need to get sponsorships for it by then. Fund accounts were kept separate on budget. We made a few changes. Christine moves, Cynthia seconds to adopt the budget; passed. We will look at it only ONCE, in 6 months, for potential revisions.

GREEN CITIZEN FUNDING: History: We had gone to Dorothy Johnson Center and Blue Cross Blue Shield, and both turned the requests down. There were suggestions of Wege, DTE Energy, other corporate giving. We thought we should check on who is interested in supporting technological methods.

EARMARKING FUNDS FOR PERSONNEL COSTS: Kendra: over the past 10 years we've been able to accrue what we call salary savings by putting money for supervisory personnel on the grants – MSU covers their whole salaries but the money for the supervision is in the grants – so we have used some of that fund in the last year. There will be less than \$10,000 in that fund by the end of April. Carol thinks that we are going to be OK in 2009, 2010 is always a question. So Kendra wondered, would United Growth be willing – for Kendra's/Carol's time or for Mary's time – to start putting away money so there are funds if UGKC had to hire people to do the services Carol and Kendra and Merry do. Something to start separating from operational reserve. We budgeted an increase – but fell short, according to Herb. We could build some reserve into grants. Hopefully we will get more memberships, but we also might look at doing a sizable fund-raiser. We can also think of looking for matching or challenge grants. Christine: Dyer Ives has matched neighborhood association memberships in the past, maybe they would do that for us. If the association increased in membership, the foundation matched \$1 with \$1.50, up to \$2. The other thing we need to do is find out exactly what kind of dollar figures we are looking at. It should be reflected in the budget as an in-kind donation. Kendra said she will try to figure out what the portion of her time that is spent on operations amounts to.

UNITED GROWTH BOARD MEETING DATES: Keeping it the same time and day. We will revisit in April but for the meantime, it will stay the same.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS: Christine could present in Feb. on the Fulton Street Farmers' Market feasibility study, but we felt that would be better in April. We had mentioned doing green jobs and economic development for the annual meeting, hoping to generate more publicity. This will also be the 10-year anniversary event. We hoped to have a nice dinner with open bar at Mangiamo's or somewhere similar.

Christine brought up the topic of the whole foreclosure response, and how Kent County is meeting the challenge. One of the components the group is working on, the third leg of the problem, is how do neighborhoods respond. How is it impacting neighborhoods on the streets? Christine said she learned from studying the zoning code that when a house is boarded up the plywood it's boarded with has to be painted the same color as the trim. Also, people are supposed to register it. A new report in 2008 by CRI said that in Kent Co. more rural towns are affected – Sand Lake, for example, is at 25% - how does it affect land use CRI put that report out – foreclosure response group – what the county and the city are doing. Dottie Clune is doing a study – Kym Spring staffs the Foreclosure Response Team, and she should present, preferably in February. We thought that Tom Noreen might also be able to speak on the outlying areas, also in February. Meijer is working with the MSU Product Center – so we thought something about food in May.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE: The extended period of membership that can be obtained by signing up now should be used as an incentive. We thought to send out a postcard – and through the list-serve? Have it out at meetings, including the upcoming coalition breakfast.

RACIAL AND ETHNIC DIVERSITY PLAN: The plan had been changed to indicate that we want to reflect Kent County's demographics. The racial and ethnic issues are not the only way diversity is measured. For example, if the population we serve includes a lot of blue collar people, there should be blue collar people on the board. We also discussed at length the paragraph which stated that an obstacle to diverse involvement on the board was the need for people to have been involved for a year previous to running for the board. Cynthia pointed out that that was just a policy we'd voted on, not something in the bylaws. We can be flexible: if someone has previous experience with our issues, he or she can be fast-tracked if they have an interest in being on the board. So we decided that we could eliminate that paragraph. Christine moved to adopt with those two changes, Kevin seconded. The motion carried.

PETITION FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY IN SCHOOLS: UGKC was requested to sign on, along with individuals. We had run out of time to discuss it, so we decided to come up with a way to consider issues over e-mail. When decisions are needed, the e-mail should say something like, "No response by X date is considered to be a non-vote, and it requires a majority of yes votes to pass." In this case, if all board members approve, it should still go to the whole UGKC membership.

We all signed a letter thanking Bonnie Blackledge for her years of service to UGKC.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cynthia Price