

United Growth for Kent County, Inc. Minutes of Board Meeting October 3, 2007

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

MINUTES: Cynthia had not completed the September board minutes, so consideration of them was put off until November.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Kendra reported that we have \$5757 in our Comerica account. We had intended to use some of the Kellogg impact fund money for the Land Use Networking Luncheon, but that was deemed not a legitimate expense, so we will have to pay for that out of the account and use the receipts from the amount we charged to offset it. We should just about break even.

WK KELLOGG GRANT FUNDING IMPACT SERVICES: Kendra had prepared a proposed budget, which we reviewed. There had been a request for support for the Oakdale Neighbors revitalization project, which we considered. It was to help fund a planning project around Kalamazo Avenue, for urban corridor redesign. The other request was for SWAN's Community Builder Conference support in Oct. This is a recurring event and many neighborhoods attend. If we approve all these expenses and get no sponsoring support, this would use about \$12,500 of the \$18,000 there is in the impact services line item.

We discussed the need to have a full budget of what UGKC would have to expend to remain at current levels of activity. Kendra said she would get that to the board.

We also discussed that we should market United Growth and our successes as frequently as possible to keep us in the eye of potential funders.

Herb moved, Christine seconded that we support the budget requests as submitted. The motion carried.

As far as the coalition land preservation project which Frey had given some money towards, we just received another grant from the Lowell Community Foundation to match it. If the project can get one from the Grand Rapids Community Foundation, it will be fully funded.

OCT. 16 AGENDA: Kendra said that she would present on PDR, especially since 2 farms have been preserved on the Ridge, which will be celebrated in October. She said she is going to make a presentation at the Oct. 18 Natural Connections conference but that the two presentations would be different. Denny Heffron will co-present there.

NEWSLETTER SPONSORSHIP: Our request had been turned down by Nederveld, and Christine had asked Jayson Otto about the Fulton Street Farmers' Market possibly sponsoring, but had not heard back. We brainstormed a little about who we might provide a ripe audience for, and came up with Schuler Books, Rockford Construction, Heffron's Markets, and Rapid Growth Grand Rapids, which we discussed a little bit.

We also discussed the need to revitalize the newsletter committee, and it was suggested we ask at the coalition meeting for potential members. Cynthia is still willing to participate.

SUSTAINABLE FUNDING: We moved to a discussion of what is unique about UGKC that would interest funders, but also that would inform us about projects to seek funding for. Kendra captured this discussion on the white board.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Cynthia Price