

United Growth for Kent County, Inc.
Minutes of Board Meeting December 5, 2007

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

Chair Paul Haan called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

MINUTES: People read through the Nov. 7 board minutes. Herb moved that they be accepted once a few typos and misstatements were corrected (including leaving the H off of his name), and Mike seconded. The motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT: There was a lengthy financial report generated by Herb along with Kendra and Merry Malfroid in the packet. It showed the checkbook ledger and reflected an ending balance of approximately \$6,000. It also broke down expenses and income. Board members reviewed it and asked questions.

REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF 2008 BUDGET: We then moved into a discussion of the 2008 budget presented. Paul, Kendra and Carol had met to develop it based on our last month's discussion. There were a lot of questions because the columns were divided into Total, General - UG (Comerica), Land Pres, and RNC, in order to reflect the needs, but some of the figures were not easy to place in only one of those categories. However, Paul and Kendra answered the questions. Because the printed newsletter is a big budget item, Bonnie Blackledge wondered if we could do some kind of survey to verify if it is working or not. People present pointed out that there were benefits of having the printed copy, such as having it at public displays and meetings. However, we agreed that a survey to go out with the electronic version would be a good idea.

People pointed out that some of the projected grant funding was not secured, but they only counted that which seemed likely.

We also agreed that this would not reflect what the budget would be if we had to replace staff, that is, if Kendra's and Carol's salaries were not also paid by other entities, and at some point that should be revisited.

Herb moved, Kevin seconded that we adopt the budget. The motion carried.

WKK IMPACT SERVICES BUDGET: We reviewed the proposal Kendra had attached. She had tentatively added an item that would help pay for planning commission chairs and potential chairs to attend a Michigan Land Use Leadership Academy in February. The proposal was that we would pay part of the tuition for people who are UGKC members, with the mandate that they report back to the group. A focus of the workshop will be handling contentious meetings, which is something people asked that UGKC cover in the survey sent out years ago. Cynthia moved that we pay in part for up to six people to attend. Christine seconded the motion, and it carried.

LAND PRESERVATION SESSION: Kendra reported that Steve Small, the person who wrote the IRS code on farmland preservation taxation, may be a speaker for the land preservation initiative. The committee is working on it. We thought that would be a very exciting topic.

MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN: Kendra listed on the white board some of the brainstorming we had done previously on the tangible benefits of UGKC membership and we tried to make sense of it. We

hit on having networking meetings along the lines of a “business after hours” to make people feel more at home with UGKC and land use concepts. We thought the first could be held at Founders. We discussed whether it would be once a month or less frequent. We decided to set the first one up for February and send an invitation out over e-mail only to test the waters.

LIST OF SERVICES FOR MSUE STAFF: We did not spend much time on this but hoped that people would look at the list provided before the Jan. meeting to see what they might be willing to take on if funding is not secured for Merry’s position. We discussed that it would be good regardless to have more people involved with the newsletter.

DECEMBER AGENDA: In addition to the relaxed pot luck breakfast, staff will present the accomplishments of UGKC over the past year. There was the suggestion of playing the Michigan Jeopardy Game, but the general feeling was that that would be good only if it were not competitive.

2008 CALENDAR: We decided to keep the board meetings on the first Wednesdays at 10:15, and not to move the coalition meetings at this time. However, the networking meetings and other brown bag/training events will have to be added/

The meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Cynthia Price