

**UNITED GROWTH FOR KENT COUNTY
BOARD MEETING MINUTES, November 7, 2008**

Present: Kendra Wills, Paul Haan, Cynthia Price, Kevin Wisselink, Herb Ranta.

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

We discussed the election, including county results.

MINUTES: Cynthia submitted the minutes. Kevin noted "There peaker schedule" should read "the speaker schedule." "I the past" should be "in the past." Kendra also corrected the spelling of the name Laurie to Lourie. Kevin moved to approve, Herb seconded, motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Herb said that there had not been much activity. We went through what constituted the \$1882 membership – includes people who paid at the land use luncheon, but it also included \$1500 for Heffron's newsletter sponsorship. There was an additional report sent over e-mail, which included breakdown of expenditures. We still have to fix the \$1490 in and out figure discussed previously. We decided to offer early-in memberships which would extend through the whole 2009 membership year (starts April). We took in less than budgeted for memberships. Kevin moved to accept, Cynthia seconded. Passed.

BUDGET DEVELOPMENT PROCESS: Kendra, Herb, Paul and anyone else who wants to come will meet Nov. 17 at noon. We need to add scholarships as a budget item. Paul asked if they could have a little history at that meeting, from Merry, regarding memberships, event fees and expenses, etc. They will bring the results to the December meeting for consideration.

NEW BUSINESS: UGKC BOARD/COALITION MEETING DATES, CALENDAR: Kendra submitted a calendar with a lot of blanks as far as speaker topics, as well as results of the topics-wanted survey. We decided to leave it at that and then cover it next meeting. Connie Bohatch and Linda Likely will present in January re: the city is going to get \$300 million and the county is going to get \$100 million to deal with vacant foreclosed homes. Both of them have to submit their plans by Dec. 1. Carol had seen Jay Fowler do a presentation to the Grand Rapids City Commission about all the new housing going in downtown, so we thought people would enjoy hearing about that. We decided to incorporate that into the December informal breakfast meeting. We set the December schedule up so that there will be informal breakfast time at the beginning for people to network. At that meeting we will also announce the 2009 calendar.

The second page Kendra submitted showed list of potential CEU sessions and we might be able to use county money (leftover) for some. The events would be bring your own lunch, pay \$5 and get CEU credits. We asked Kendra to send this out to everybody.

We would also like to see tours heavily promoted, attached to United Growth name. Board members could schedule the brown bag lunches, provided they were kept simple. It was suggested that purchasing event items (i.e., videos) should go on the budget. A lot

of people wanted networking. We talked about annual meeting in March being a happy hour event (a la Green Drinks). We decided to explore a partnership with Rapid Growth Grand Rapids, possibly around a healthy neighborhood vs. challenged one based on the RNC committee indicators. We felt we should start an events planning committee and get the word out at the Nov. coalition meeting. It would entail just a couple of meetings and minimal follow-up. Kendra stressed that she does not have the time to do events set-up.

We have to some degree developed a template for doing these events. We could plug a committee in, idea people and a few who would set some of it up. Merry would be best to staff that committee. Kendra will continue to try to plug in speakers to the calendar. If there are tours or scholarships that we could give reduced fees on for members, Kendra thinks the townships would be more likely to join.

We could call this a programming committee. It would be nice if we could identify a chair. Paul would come to first meeting, probably solely.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE: We reiterated the offer above to people who have not renewed. Kendra/Merry will generate a letter with a deadline – people thought it should be by Dec. 31. We need to plan for increased membership

DIVERSITY PLAN: We will look at the revision and do it over e-mail, due to the late hour.

ANNUAL REPORT: UGKC is now required to send an annual financial report to members by the state. Also, when we apply for grants, it helps to have one -- needs to have budget, accomplishments, board members. We authorized Kendra to go ahead with this, keeping it as simple as possible. We need to identify a funding source for structural support staff.

HOLIDAY BREAKFAST: We had already settled the agenda for this item.

NOVEMBER MEETING: Mark Bauer will give a solar energy presentation. We approved the rest, along with suggestions above.

NEWSLETTER QUOTE: Spartan was the low bidder.

BONNIE BLACKLEDGE RESIGNATION: We thought we should give Bonnie some type of recognition at the annual meeting for her years of service. We did not decide exactly what; people felt it should not be a huge deal because there are many who have served, but wanted to acknowledge all Bonnie's work.

Respectfully submitted,
Cynthia Price, Secretary