

UNITED GROWTH FOR KENT COUNTY SEPTEMBER 3 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Present: Bonnie Blackledge, Christine Helms-Maletic, Mike Williams, Kendra Wills, Paul Haan, Cynthia Price, Kevin Wisselink, Kim Van Dyk. Chairperson Paul Haan called the meeting to order at 10:25 a.m.

MINUTES: Need to change spelling of Kim Van Dyk. Christine moved, Kevin seconded that with that change the minutes be approved. Passed.

TREASURERS REPORT: Herb Ranta was out of town but Merry Malfroid had run out reports. As far as the Dyer-Ives line item, there was a contract with them for Carol Townsend's time. Board members asked that the reports be dated. Paul pointed out that there is a \$5000 (approx.) deficit between our projections as far as income and what we have actually taken in, as of right now. We've gone over in 3 line items – we don't pay for Merry's services at this time. There will be substantial expenses coming up; however we have grant funds to offset them. Newsletter underwriting will be received by the time the newsletter has to be printed. The sponsorship will not pay for it completely, however. The other concern Paul had is that the budget on the report is not the budget we passed at the beginning of the year. Kendra answered that it reflected that budget amendments were passed. Board members asked that a budget versus amended budget report be issued, so we can track it well. Cynthia pointed out that as far as budget projections, prior to this year we didn't have a history to go by but we will from now on, and should learn from our mistakes. C: Paul said that if we amend the budget, we should do it once a year only, so that we don't have to chase down the minutes to track it. As long as the expenditures are within the budget, there would be no need to bring it before the board, only if the budget item will be exceeded. Paul also pointed out that we don't have a financial policy, no even in the bylaws. Cynthia moved we accept the report with indicated changes. The motion carried.

FILING 990: We need to file for last year, and even though it is for a small amount (and nothing is owed of course), we might have a penalty. Kim said that Neighborhood Ventures had requested that the penalty be waived, and the IRS complied. We may not have to file based on how little we made, but that is slated to change, where even if the income is \$0, a 990 must still be filed. We may also need a review of books. We will ask Herb to resolve these issues.

DEVELOPMENT OF CANDIDATE FORUM QUESTIONS FOR LAND USE

NETWORKING LUNCHEON: Kendra reported that so far, we haven't had high RSVP rates, just 3 or 4. There are a few which are likely to RSVP who have not. We divided up the list of candidates to make reminder calls.

Question on PDR: Brainstormed: Do you support county funding for PDR? In what specific ways would you be willing to support PDR? Settled on: What specific role should the county have in supporting PDR?

Question on septic system: Background: Our groundwater is really important, and ensuring safe septic systems are a big part of protecting it. What do you feel can be done at the county level to ensure safe septic systems in Kent County? Reference the report.

Paul is gone the day of the luncheon. Kim Van Dyk will moderate the panel; Mike Williams will do the welcome and kick off the 3-minute updates. Cynthia will help give Dave Guikema his award. We might be able to have the newsletters available by then. We can definitely have the acronym brochure and LPE brochure. There was not enough time to do an annual report.

Question on transit: GVMC is set to start a countywide transit study this fall, what role should Kent Co. government play in building a countywide transit system?

Question on parks: There's been discussion about a potential millage to fund parks. Would you support a millage and if it passes, what do you think are the priorities for if it passes?

SEND SOMEONE TO PDR TOUR: There is a group taking people to see PDR success stories, similar to the old Ultimate Farmland Preservation Tour. There are a few people who want to go but the group is seeking funding to help out. Denny Heffron and Scott Everett made the request. Unfortunately, we decided that we have to turn this down because we just do not have the money right now.

ADD MERRY TO THE CREDIT CARD?: Merry needs to buy supplies at times and is not authorized to use the credit card. People suggested that instead, Kendra give Merry the card number including the reference number on back, and she order over the phone.

COMMITTEE TO PLAN THE 10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY IN 2009: We thought we should bring this up at a coalition meeting.

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT RENEWAL: We reviewed the MOA with Kent County Extension. We need to be sure that #3 on salary reflects that it is tied to Dyer-Ives funding and requires successful completion of the grant. Also not "grant," say "provide funds." UGKC is paying total \$9050 and 4800 for salaries. Need to clarify whether it is quarterly, and covers Nov. 1 – July 31. We would also like to change the 90-day termination clause to 60 days. We should have Herb look at the MOA. Paul will get it to him. We also thought we should add dates to #6. Cynthia moved that we move forward with the MOA with those changes and pending Herb's approval. Bonnie seconded. Passed unanimously.

We postponed the diversity discussion due to the late hour.

HOLD MONTHLY COALITION MEETING DAY AFTER LUNCHEON?: Everyone wanted to cancel this meeting based on an expectation of low attendance. We decided to do so by consensus. The committees will still meet.

The meeting was adjourned at about 11:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Cynthia Price