

REVITALIZING NEIGHBORHOODS COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes 02-19-08

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 by Chair, Paul Haan.

Committee Members Present:

Gail Heffner, Kim VanDyk, Paul Haan, Carol Townsend, Jill Meyer, Tom Bulten, Christine Helms-Maletic, Russ Lewis, Frank Lynn

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from 1-15-08 approved unanimously.

Update on Dyer Ives Proposal

Carol reported that Gail and Christine would be presenting the Zoning Project Proposal (see 1-15-08 minutes for detailed discussion of project) to the Dyer Ives Board tomorrow. The RNC is requesting \$14,500 from Dyer Ives for a project whose total budget is \$23,900, the balance of the funding to come from Michigan State University/Kellogg grant and from the City of GR's Planning Department. Upon completion of the 18-month long project, a second phase may involve the development of a staff position for a "Zoning Circuit Rider," to provide support and information to local organizations.

May Brown Bag Luncheon Video

Carol invited RNC members to preview videos related to developing great neighborhoods for a Brown Bag Luncheon to be hosted by the RNC in May. Carol will organize a date and time for video previewing via email.

Visioning Exercise

Carol distributed a "Visioning Exercise Summary" and asked for feedback. The following comments were made:

- Frank suggested adding information from GRAPL to the effect that trends towards an aging population and towards the increase (doubling) of "carless" households will affect neighborhood development in the future.
- Item two should refer to school systems in general, not just public schools.
- The third-to-last point should indicate that less *public* capital will be available for community/economic development.
- The mixed-use and transit-oriented development items should be combined.
- Kim suggesting adding an item related to the increase in diversity and minority and non-English speaking households and a corresponding increase in the youth population.
- Russ suggested that future neighborhoods will emphasize quality of life and that there will be an acceleration of re-education of the workforce and technology changes. Lifelong learning opportunities will be valued.
- Carol asked whether the item about local banking captured the conversation, and Russ responded that an increasing competition for global capital will push the need for local dollars to be available to local people. New ways of lending/moving capital will be developed, e.g. peer-to-peer online lending, bartering, land contracts, other non-traditional banking practices.

Christine suggested that in the near future rising oil prices would bring people into the city from the suburbs. Frank thought that would lead to increased diversity, with a demand for better services, such as public transit, police, sidewalk maintenance, from the new transplants. Russ suggested that in order to develop a vision for positive change, we should use GIS overlays

indicating desired economic nodes, transit lines, parks, walk/bike paths. Christine thought the Master Plan would be a good place to start, especially including all the Area Specific Plans that are being developed by neighborhoods and other local groups.

Paul indicated that the next steps might be for the RNC to identify our ideal neighborhood, based on the Urban Redevelopment Principles, as well as specific steps for getting there. The conversation will have to continue at a future meeting due to lack of time.

Announcements

Next month is United Growth's annual meeting. Breakfast will begin at 8:00 with a speaker and general elections from 8:30 to 10:00.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 10:37.