

REVITALIZING NEIGHBORHOODS COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes 03-18-08

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

Committee Members Present:

Paul Haan, Carol Townsend, Gail Heffner, Frank Lynn, Jill Meyer, Kim VanDyk, Heather Ibrahim

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from 2-19-08 were unavailable; they will be approved at the next meeting.

Zoning Brochure Progress

Dyer Ives has approved the Zoning Project proposal. Congratulations to Carol, Gail & Christine.

The Zoning Subcommittee has begun working with GR Planning staff to develop the brochures. There will be three brochures, each covering a single broad topic: traditional residential zones, mixed-use commercial zones, and advocacy. Each brochure will include definitions and relevant signage information (i.e. church and school signs in the residential brochure, business signs in the commercial brochure). There will be information sheets on specific topics such as fences.

Once the brochures have been completed, the second phase of the project will begin. The Subcommittee will develop presentations and train RNC members to deliver them to local groups. Paul reminded RNC members to be prepared to volunteer their time to do one or two of these presentations when the time comes.

May Brown Bag Luncheon Video

Carol distributed "RNC Video Brown Bag Lunch Suggestions" and asked for feedback about the discussion questions. The following suggestions were made:

- What are the good/bad aspects of each of the projects presented?
- Are there any strategies that would work in GR? Which ones? What would be the first steps toward implementing them?
- How are other municipalities dealing with walkability and pedestrian vs. automobile issues in planning and zoning? Are there models there for GR?
- What were some examples of creative solutions or innovative partnerships that might be replicated in some way here in GR?
- How can GR housing development accommodate a range of income levels, particularly the middle-class? (We seem to subsidize luxury and low-income development in our downtown development strategies.)

The committee selected the date of Friday, May 9 from 11:30 to 1:00 pm.

Announcements

Frank handed out a flier regarding a homeownership workshop hosted by Disability Advocates and Guardian Angels Homes, Inc. to be held Thursday, April 24 from 5 to 8:30 pm at Christ Community Church in Kentwood. Dinner will be provided.