

Meeting Minutes – Revitalizing Neighborhoods Committee 3/17/09

- I. Call to order/Introductions
Present: Gail Heffner; Christine Helms-Malectic; Mike Williams; John Gussenbauer, Kristi DeKraker, Kevin Wesselink; Heather Ibrahim, Amber Kilpatrick, Kim Van Dyk, Carol Townsend, Pamela Benjamin, Frank Lynn; Chris Thompson

Gail called the meeting to order at 9:30
Minutes from the February 17 meeting were approved.
- II. Zoning Project update
The Neighborhood zoning workshop was held. A dozen neighborhoods groups were represented. There was a presentation on the zoning code and participants discussed having a zoning organizer and where we go from here.

Carol circulated the Traditional Neighborhoods brochure. More brochures are being developed.

Seven presentations have been made. Kim Van Dyk recently presented to SE area businesses (18 people in attendance). Paul and Gail presented at a conference in Chicago. There are 5 more presentation to be done by May 31. The group discussed where these presentations would be done.
- III. Neighborhood Indicators Project
 - A. Proposed changes
Carol and the Planning students met with Dr. Laurie VanEgeren to discuss the neighborhood indicators. A list of proposed changes to the neighborhood indicators was presented. They included changes to all categories including moving indicators around. Discussion centered on a number of issues. Neighborhood schools were discussed. It was suggested the schools should act as a neighborhood center. It was also suggested that teacher turnover, attendance and class size could be measures of school quality. There was also discussion of category V, empowerment. A number of indicators had been moved out of that category. Some additional indicators such as neighborhood association membership, block parties, and residents attending City meetings were suggested. The proposed changes were adopted.
There was some discussion about how the indicators would be used. Some suggestions were they could be used for program development and fund raising.

B. Draft Report

Carol indicated that a draft report would be available this week. She encouraged Amber, Kristie (as representatives of the target neighborhoods), and Kevin to go through it with a very critical eye.

C. Community Presentation

There was discussion about organizing the report presentation. NOBL and Eastown discussed doing a joint presentation the last week of April or first week of May. A possible location could be the Extension Building. The two neighborhoods will coordinate with the students.

IV. Next Meeting will be Tuesday, April 21 at 9:30 AM