

## MEETING MINUTES - Revitalizing Neighborhoods Committee 1/20/09

### **I. Call to Order/Introductions**

Present: Paul Haan, Carol Townsend, Pamela Benjamin, Christine Helms-Maletic, Kevin Wisselink, Heather Ibrahim, Russ Lewis, Cynthia Price, Tom Tillman

Paul called the meeting to order at 9:35 am.

### **II. Zoning Project Update**

Carol asked for each person present to commit to contacting one or two organizations to schedule zoning presentations. She will email a list of assignments later in the week.

### **III. Proposed Activity Schedule for 2009**

Carol distributed a handout with a list of proposed activities for the committee's approval. The schedule is pretty full for the first half of the year, allowing us to focus our efforts on completing the Zoning and Neighborhood Indicators projects, while continuing to plan for the Green Citizen and Energy projects to be carried out in the second half. Thus far, funding for the latter has been difficult to obtain.

#### **A. Neighborhood Indicators Project**

The MSU Practicum students have a Google groups page for communicating with each other, and Kevin has the information if anyone on the committee wants it. The committee agreed that the best method for conveying information between the students and ourselves is for Kevin to be the "ambassador," summarizing and relaying information and distributing it via email. The committee will receive updates about the project at its regular monthly meetings.

Carol has gotten responses from five neighborhoods who are potentially interested in hosting the project team: Easttown, Midtown, Garfield Park, West Grand and NOBL. She has a meeting scheduled next Thursday with representatives from each. Kevin and Carol will be presenting a grant request in the amount of \$5,387 to the Dyer-Ives board.

#### **B. Energy Project**

Carol is investigating a potential collaboration with other groups, including Home Repair Services, ASCET, and the City of Grand Rapids, for the Revitalizing Neighborhoods Committee to fill in gaps in existing energy conservation programs. One possibility is the development of an "Energy Conservation 101" class and a program of following up with residents who have had improvements made to their homes to ensure that they are utilizing them properly.

#### **C. Green Citizen**

There is a possibility that this project could be carried out in collaboration with the City or the State, perhaps using any "Stimulus" money that might trickle down to UGKC or its partners.

#### **D. Administration/Operational**

Each RNC member should try to recruit another person to the committee, especially with an eye to UGKC's Diversity Plan. Committee members should also plan to pitch in by writing articles for UGKC's quarterly newsletter.

#### **IV. Elections**

Carol handed out an RNC member roster. After some discussion Cynthia nominated Paul and Gail to continue to serve as committee co-chairs and Frank Lyn to replace Christine as the secretary. Heather supported, motion passed unopposed. Christine will contact Paul, Gail and Frank to see if they are willing to take the jobs.

#### **V. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 10:15.

Respectfully submitted,  
Christine Helms-Maletic  
Secretary