

MEETING MINUTES - Revitalizing Neighborhoods Committee 9/16/08

I. Call to Order

Present: Carol Townsend, Mike Williams, Gail Heffner, Jill Meyer, Kevin Wessilink, Christine Helms-Maletic, Frank Lynn, Russ Lewis, John Gussenbauer, Kim Van Dyk and Sylvia _____

Gail Heffner, co-chairperson, called the meeting to order at approximately 9:35am.

II. Presentation by Tom Pfister

Carol announced that spatial constraints prevented Tom from presenting his report to the Committee on the Local Initiatives Support Corporation and their activities in West Michigan. Tom will be rescheduled for the November meeting. In October the Committee will consider the topic of residential properties in neighborhood business districts, led by Tom Bulten.

III. Old Business: Zoning Code Project

A. PPT Presentation Report

Christine presented the first Zoning Code PowerPoint Presentation to the West Fulton Business Association, with Carol in attendance. The presentation was generally well-received and was attended by Kay Moul of the City's Planning Department, who answered many of the specific questions that were raised following the presentation. The Planning Department is planning to send staff to as many of these presentations as possible for that purpose.

B. Need Volunteer for October 20 at 7 pm at Midtown

Kim volunteered to conduct this presentation.

C. Follow-up phone calls to associations

Carol passed around a sign-up sheet for individuals to call neighborhood and business associations to encourage them to host a presentation. She'll follow up with an email reminding people of their assignments.

D. Brochure Mock-ups

Carol presented two mock-ups of the Zoning Brochures by the GR Planning Department's graphic designers and asked for the committee's opinion. Most liked the brochure with the large picture of the house on the cover. Christine will ask the owner's permission before using it. The United Growth logo and Dyer Ives funding information should also be added. (Delays in the production of the brochure have been caused by the loss of graphic design staff at the City.)

IV. New Business: Parking Day

Carol described the City's request for applications for "Park-ing Day" permits, allowing local organizations to rent a parking space for a day to highlight the need for alternatives to driving and for more green space in the City. Unfortunately, the event is this Friday, and the Committee determined that there would not be enough time to organize something before then. Perhaps next year.

V. Ideal Neighborhoods Indicators Homework

Kevin, Christine and Kim presented their indicators for Transportation, Low- and Mod-Income Development Incentives and Sidewalks, respectively. Carol asked that each person who had presented their indicators, either in the past or still yet to come, submit them to her in writing. Rather than reproduce these discussions here, refer to Carol's summary at the next meeting. At that meeting we will select which indicators to track.

VI. Other

Frank passed around an announcement of an upcoming Disability Advocates event.

Meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.