

Meeting Minutes – Revitalizing Neighborhoods Committee 1/19/10

- I. Call to order/Introductions
Present: Pamela Benjamin, Sylvia Harris, Christine Helms-Maletic, Frank Lynn, Chris Thompson, Tom Bulten, Mike Williams, Tyler Nickerson, Kym Spring, Paul Haan, Carol Townsend
- II. Annual Election of Officers
Christine and Paul were nominated for co-chairs and Frank was nominated as Secretary. Paul will talk to Gail Hefner about her interest.
- III. Old Business
 - A. Neighborhood Indicators Project update
 1. NOBL – Chris Thompson reported that a committee met and talked about what indicators they would monitor. They also wanted to identify other indicators focused on middle and high school.
 2. Eastown – Pamela Benjamin reported that Eastown is working on finding Board members to work on the project and looking at what indicators to work on. The work ties into strategic planning and is helpful for funding sources.
 3. Other areas – Christine suggested that non-funded and unorganized areas like Baxter might be a place to start. Pamela talked about the Weed and Seed.
 4. Carol talked about a meeting she attended with Norman Christopher from GVSU's CRI. He wants to bring CRI to the next level. He is working with a group in the Dickenson (Garfield) neighborhood and trying to establish some indicators, especially around education. Carol presented United Growth's indicators. There was some talk about the importance of having grass roots groups to participate in such projects.
 - B. City Budget Cuts – Frank reported that there is not a lot of grass roots organizing taking place around the budget issue. A group is looking at health care costs. There is also some interest in looking at DDA funding. Carol suggested that the Neighborhood Revitalization Committee could host a panel discussion about the DDA and what has happened in other places.
 - C. Energy Efficiency Efforts
 1. Carol talked about the Urban Collaborators project with ASCET and the ENTF. Students will be working to develop a resource guide of energy programs and best practices. They will also be designing a program for low income families.
 2. Carol also secured \$4000 from the DOE through DLAG for

basic weatherization. A pilot program will be started in Oakdale, Garfield, and Creston neighborhoods.

D. Other – Tyler Nickerson introduced himself as the new Housing Advocate at the Coalition to End Homelessness. He will be working on the IPMC.

IV. Role of Community Development Extension Educator Brainstorming. Various ideas were presented.

- A. Help with strategic planning: Bring back Building Great Neighborhoods. Facilitate. Use indicators.
- B. Staff training – orientation
- C. System-wide coordination
- D. Urban Agriculture projects