

## URBAN COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES 1/18/05

Present: Heather Aldridge, Terry Sanford, Rick Chapla, Barb Holt, Jay Hoekstra, John Gussenbauer, Herb Ranta, Mike Williams, Gail Heffner, Paul Haan, Mike Cary, Sue Levandoski, and Carol Townsend

Mike W. called the meeting to order and chaired until Paul returned from guiding the Rural Committee to their meeting spot.

### Review/Evaluate 2004 Committee Activities

- 1.) The major goal of last year was to encourage neighborhood participation in the city's zoning re-write process. Rick said the City is now finalizing the Pattern Book. Herb felt the Committee helped neighborhoods get focused and organized to deal with the zoning ordinance.
- 2.) A sub-committee pursued the possibility of having MSU establish an Urban Field Research Station in GR. Carol reported that it appears that this has become very political and may no longer be a good possibility. The Committee decided that they would like to continue bird dogging this and look at a local collaboration. Gail will follow up with Soji on the design session he promised we would have in January.
- 3.) Seven new members were recruited to the Urban Committee. Rick will ask Eric Pratt to join the Committee.

### Election of PMT Members

- A. Terry, Paul, and Barb agreed to continue serving on the Project Management Team. Gail will be ready to join the PMT in or around March. Herb agreed to fill in for Gail in the interim.
- B. Paul agreed to chair the Urban Committee, and Jay volunteered to co-chair. They were elected by acclamation!

### 2005 Goal Setting Discussion

1. **Zoning ordinance re-write.** Committee could evaluate the results of the Pattern Books.
2. **City budget woes.** The Committee could analyze the budget issues and issue a paper.
3. **Affordable housing.** Terry said that developers have asked him how they can do developments in the central city. The committee could explore the relationship Midtown has with the development they are planning.
4. **Public transportation.** The Committee could tie-in with current transit efforts.
5. **Suburban redevelopment.** The Committee could look at neighborhoods in the surrounding suburbs for revitalization efforts.
6. **Industrial redevelopment.** The Committee could make sure industrial sites within the city are redeveloped so that jobs will be accessible to GR residents.
7. **"Potentially eligible" historical preservation districts.** The Committee could provide education and further analysis of these districts and bring neighborhoods and other interested parties together.

How can we facilitate redevelopment in the City? In 2005, the Urban Committee could help develop a process for redevelopment that would include a partnership between a developer and a neighborhood association, which would include affordable housing and mass transit aspects - while making sure the new zoning code facilitates all of this.

Everyone should mull these goal possibilities and come to the February meeting prepared to vote on specific goals. Please think about what your involvement will be toward moving the selected goals forward.

Next Meeting is: **Tuesday, February 15, at 9:30 a.m. at Aquinas College.** An agenda will follow.

[If you want to take the survey on how Grand Rapids should cut their budget, you can do it on-line through their website: [www.grand-rapids.mi.us](http://www.grand-rapids.mi.us). Click in the right hand corner, on-line budget survey.]