

URBAN COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES 4/18/06

Present: Herb Ranta, Heather Aldridge, Mike Williams, Paul Haan, Gail Heffner, John Gussenbauer, Craig Nobbelin, Anita Jones, and Carol Townsend

Paul called the meeting to order and welcomed Anita Jones as a new member. Anita works for the City of Grand Rapids.

Committee members had good comments about the video, "Block by Block", that was shown April 7, the good attendance, and good discussion afterward. They would like to see this format used again. A more in-depth discussion could be held at the Urban Committee meeting after a video or presentation. Carol will contact Zenia Kotval to see if she would be willing to do something here.

Paul reported that the Zoning Sub-Committee had a good meeting with Suzanne Schulz. (Minutes of that meeting are attached.) She is committed to having the new code completed and approved by the end of this year - so we are all on the same page. The sub-committee will meet again to develop strategies to help keep the momentum going on the re-write process. Mike W. would like to join this group.

Herb and Mike reported on the Urban Redevelopment Principles Sub-Committee. They have proposed a whole different approach. Instead of being planner-oriented and talking more about the physical form first, they are looking at principles that describe the kind of quality of life that is desired in a neighborhood. The form would follow the functions that are listed. There was general agreement with this approach.

There was discussion on how these principles would blend with what the Rural Committee is proposing as Coalition principles. Gus suggested identifying those things common to both, and then branching into rural development and urban redevelopment principles. Penny Pestle had some additions to the urban principles, but it was not clear what she specifically wanted added. She will be invited to the next sub-committee meeting to explain her ideas. Anita and Gail will join this group.

Meeting adjourned promptly at 10:30 a.m.!