

URBAN COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES 4/19/05

Present: Paul Haan, John Gussenbauer, Herb Ranta, Mike Williams, Heather Aldridge, Mike Cary, Jay Hoekstra, Gail Heffner, and Carol Townsend

Paul, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order.

Jay gave a PowerPoint presentation that summarized the housing study done by Laurie Volk. Her conclusions include:

- ✍ 3,200 units per year could be built in urban centers in the Grand Rapids metro area. This would constitute the majority of housing activity, which is not now the case.
- ✍ Builders must expand the density and diversity of housing types in order to satisfy the market.

The implications for central city neighborhoods is that they will have an increase in households, which will be primarily middle income and higher, and they will need to be accommodated in some fashion.

Copies of the Neighborhood Position Paper on the City Budget (provided by Lori Stanton in abstentia) were distributed and discussed. The Committee wants to continue to monitor the situation.

Jay distributed copies of some materials from the Congress for New Urbanism that we can use to formulate our "Redevelopment Principles". Everyone should read these and come with their ideas to the next meeting. Jay, Rick, and Herb will draft something for the Committee to review. Heather will check to see if Main Street or LISC has something relevant.

Carol will not be at the next Committee meeting, so the GRUP update will be done at the June meeting. Herb reminded everyone of the May 25 membership event (see Coalition minutes for more details).

Meeting adjourned pretty much on time!!!