

**Grand Rapids Central City Weed and Seed
Steering Committee Meeting
Wednesday, December 19, 2007 12:00 pm
Grand Rapids Police Department Conference Room 3061**

Steering Committee Members Present (12)

Neighborhood Associations (4): Baxter - Marian Young-Barrera, Easttown - Olivia Destrades-Mendoza, East Hills - Kathryn Caliendo, S.E.E.N.A. - Sandra Latham

Residents (2): Ray Tromp, Alice Menninga

Law Enforcement (2): Lt. Eric Payne (South Service Area), Officer Jim Wojczynski (Baxter Community Officer)

Kent County Prosecutor's Office (1): Tim Doyle

Department of Justice (1): Janet Strahan

Drug Enforcement Agency (1): Michael Yasenchak

City Of Grand Rapids (1): Haris Alibasic

Non-Voting Attendees (4)

Kristine Jaros - Site Coordinator, Dr. Debra Ross (GVSU), Dr. William Crawley (GVSU), Aaron Rider (GVSU Graduate Assistant)

Members Not Present With Notification (2)

Sgt Bargas (GRPD), Captain Farris (GRPD), Pamela Benjamin (Easttown), Kaye Hooker (DOJ)

Members Not Present Without Notification (1)

Sandra Rodriguez (MANA)

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairperson Marian Young-Barrera at 12:05 pm

II. Introductions

Members introduced themselves. A quorum was in attendance.

III. Approval of Minutes

The revised minutes of the November 28, 2007 meeting were presented. Tim Doyle made a motion to approve these minutes, seconded by Dr. William Crawley. As such, the minutes were passed by the Steering Committee.

IV. 2008 Grant Review

A. Budget Narrative Review

1. Dr. Debra Ross announced that all outstanding accounts from FY 2006 have been cleared. The FY 2007 budget is under review by the Department of Justice. She stated that CCDO will underwrite the expenses of 2 designated people for attending two conferences and two statewide or regional meetings to be held during FY 2008-9. Unexpended funds will be adjusted within the grant. Some of the line items/equipment included in FY 2008 are not covered and will have to receive compensation from other sources and donations; as examples, rents for neighborhood association offices, cell phones, and other equipment.

2. Event/projects: Parts of the National Night Out event are being highlighted for review. A detailed description is included in the budget narrative. (p.4). The Juvenile Youth Summit and the

Domestic Violence Summit events have been flagged for review also. Information will be gathered related to specific concerns highlighted.

3. Kristine Jaros provided a nine-page draft of Seed Projects to be contained within the “2008 Budget Narrative.” This document presents the requests received for SEED funding from 12 different entities (agencies, neighborhood associations, groups, committees, and initiatives) serving the population of Central City Weed and Seed. This piece of the 2008 Weed and Seed Budget Narrative covers G. through 4.-12.d. and describes proposed-draft seed programming.

B. Budget Spreadsheet Review

Dr. Ross provided a 13 page budget spreadsheet called “Budget Detail Worksheet.” Specific details related to each funding request are included in this document, with the dollar amount to be expended for each part of each program proposed. The areas which are highlighted are those items which require more information before they can be submitted to the Department of Justice. Each line item in the budget was explained and reviewed by the Steering Committee. Discussion ensued on many of the various items presented in this budget. The Steering Committee concurred that at least one representative of each of the 12 groups requesting funds be present at the next Steering Committee meeting to answer questions related to their request for funding.

It was noted that the total amount of requested funding resulted in a budget over-spend of \$7,500.00 dollars.

Discussion followed to solve the over-budget problem.

A balanced budget must be developed, sent to Washington, and received within two weeks. A motion was made by Tim Doyle, seconded by Haris Alibasic, to hold a special meeting to resolve this issue on January 3, 2008 with community input.

At that point, Lt. Eric Payne introduced a letter obtained during the meeting signed by the President of Madison Area Neighborhood Association (MANA). The letter indicated MANA was withdrawing its membership in Central City Weed and Seed for personal reasons. Crawley and Young-Barrera took exception with the letter. This action thus freed up \$8,500.00 through the voluntarily withdrawal of MANA’s funding request from the 2008 budget.

Therefore, Tim Doyle withdrew his motion for a special meeting and Haris Alibasic withdrew his second to the motion. The motion was withdrawn.

Tim Doyle made a motion to e-mail and to expedite information on each of the highlighted items in the budget in order to allow a free flow of information so that all Steering Committee members could be fully informed and vote by e-mail to answer the highlighted issues and meet the budget deadline. This method and motion was seconded by Haris Alibasic. The motion to allow for electronic voting was passed.

C. Program Narrative Review

The portion of the draft “2008 Weed and Seed Narrative” 32 pages was made available. There was no discussion.

V. Announcements/Updates

The January 23, 2008 meeting will be held at noon at GRPD, Room 2057.

VI Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:07pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Raymond Tromp

WEED AND SEED
Steering Committee
MEETING

Wednesday, January 23, 2008

12:00 noon

Grand Rapids Police Department (Room 2057)