



Grand Rapids—Central City
Weed & Seed

**Grand Rapids Central City Weed & Seed
Steering Committee Meeting
Amway Board Room
Grand Valley State University
September 26, 2007
12:00 noon**

Present

Captain James Farris (GRPD)
Pamela Benjamin (President, Eastown Neighborhood Association)
Haris Aubasic (City of Grand Rapids)
Tim Doyle (Kent County Prosecutor's Office)
Sgt. Elliott Bargas (GRPD)
Mike Yasenchak (Drug Enforcement Agency)
Olivia Destrades Mendoza (Crime Prevention - Eastown Neighborhood Association)
Dr. Debra Ross (GVSU)
Karen Larsen Horlings (GRPD)
Lt. Eric Payne (GRPD)
Ray Tromp (Baxter Community Association)
Kathleen Lett (GRPD)

Absent with / without notification

Not known

I. Call to Order – Chair, Captain James Farris

The meeting was called to order by Captain James Farris at 12:05 pm at the site indicated above. Members introduced themselves.

II. Public Comment

The Community Research Institute presented the Third Annual Community Survey by the Johnson Philanthropic Center for Central City Weed and Seed. This contracted evaluation service for 2007-2008 FY included conducting a community perception survey in the Weed & Seed area. The 26 page document included the questionnaire, a respondent profile, the methodology, the results/findings, and a breakdown by neighborhood borders within the Central City Weed and Seed area, and graphs of nine specific issues covered in the survey.

The information was received and a copy was distributed to each Steering Committee member.

III. Action Items

Dr. Debra Ross provided a report that confirmed the grant award for FY2008-2009 from the office of Justice Programs. This 89 page document of approval for funding contains the Narrative and conditions of administration. Michael Alston, the Director of the Office of Justice Programs and the Assistant Attorney General, Regina B. Schofield, sent congratulations to Dr. Crawley and Dr. Ross for



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this award and the Steering Committee join them in gratitude for their assistance and direction in this achievement. Lacking a quorum, the Steering Committee will vote to approve this document at the next meeting.

Dr. Debra Ross presented the 2006 budget of the concluding current year. Outstanding bills must be paid and distribution of all funds must be concluded by September 30, 2007. She explained the various items in the PowerPoint presentation, and presented proposed programs that will exhaust the funds by the designated date. Our new Fiscal Year will start October 1st, 2007 and will conclude September 30, 2008. This monthly up date of the budget was distributed.

Karen Larsen Horlings reported that money from the Neighborhood Development fund has been allocated. The proposal from the Baxter Neighborhood Association was accepted with the provision that the digital cameras shall be stored for check-out in Criminal Justice Office on the Second Floor of Grand Valley State University. She requested that Madison Avenue Neighborhood Association send in to her the results of their recent Job Fair and the related follow-up activities of the Job Fair.

IV. Announcements

The NEXT MEETING of Central City Weed & Seed is scheduled for October 24, 2007 at 12:00 noon at the Amway Board Room at GVSU. This is a change for the previously scheduled site at the GRPD.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:20pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Ray Tromp

Secretary