

**Steering Committee Meeting**  
**Wednesday, July 23, 2008 at 3:00-5:00 pm**  
**Baxter Community Center Grace Conference Room**

Voting Steering Committee Members Present

1. Captain Eric Payne - Grand Rapids Police Department
2. Sgt Elliott Bargas - Grand Rapids Police Department
3. Haris Alibasic - City of Grand Rapids
4. Marian Barrera-Young - Baxter Neighborhood Association
5. Ray Tromp - Baxter Neighborhood Association: resident
6. Alice Menninga - Eastown Neighborhood Association: resident
7. Kathryn Caliendo - East Hills Council of Neighbors
8. Sandra Latham - Southeast East End Neighborhood Association
9. Michael Yasenchak - Drug Enforcement Administration
10. Janet Stahan - U.S. Attorney's Office (ALTERNATE for Kaye)

Voting Steering Committee Members Excused

1. Pamela Benjamin - Eastown Community Association
2. Scott Vogel - Madison Avenue Neighborhood Association: business representative
3. Tim Doyle - Kent County Prosecutor's Office
4. Kaye Hooker – U.S. Attorney's Office

Non-Voting Regular Attendees and Guests Present

1. Kristine Jaros - Weed and Seed Site Coordinator
2. Olivia Destrades-Mendoza - Eastown Community Association
3. Larry Stevenson - Salvation Army Kroc Center
4. Elijah X - Resident of Baxter Neighborhood
5. Officer Aaron Stevens - Grand Rapids Police Department

**I. Call To Order**

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairperson Captain Eric Payne at 3:05 pm.

**II. Introductions**

Members introduced themselves. A quorum was present.

**III. Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the June 25th meeting by Marian Barrera-Young. It was noted that the printed copy reflected a different date. As this was corrected, the motion was seconded by Kathryn Caliendo. The minutes were approved.

**IV. CRI Site Evaluation**

Kristine reported that surveying continues; however, responses are low. More volunteers would be helpful. The north section of Baxter neighborhood has been completed as reported by Marian Barrera -Young. A count will be taken of completed surveys in August to determine the status. Suggestions were made to use evenings, rather than Saturdays, to complete this required inventory of community resources. Both East Hills and Eastown associations reported that they had not yet turned in their evaluations, and are waiting to finish them before submitting them. Members were encouraged to complete this required survey as soon as possible.

#### **V. Results of the NeighborhoodWorks Training Event Poll**

According to the recent poll of by members of the Steering Committee, the event will begin Friday with one/half day dedicated to meeting with the members of the Steering Committee. On Saturday, the public will be invited to join the Steering Committee in an all-day meeting. Those invited will be those in partnership with us and other residents in the Central City Weed and Seed Area. The discussion areas of highest interest were (1) developing a sustainability plan before the end of the Weed and Seed funding period, (2) securing more funding for programs, and (3) recruiting more resident to become involved with the Steering Committee. Kristine will continue to work with NeighborWorks to finalize the details. Tentative dates are Friday, September 12<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, September 13<sup>th</sup>.

#### **VI. Information from the Department of Justice CCDO**

Kristine Jaros provided the Steering Committee with information from the CCDO that a representative would be arriving during the first or second week of August for the purpose of a mandatory site assessment. Kristine and Kaye contacted Fred in D.C. He assured us that the site assessment is a standard part of the process across all sites and is not due to any issues with our site. Specific topics will be covered according to the communication. Various strategies and site visits will be part of the assessment process. Kristine Jaros advised the members of the steering Committee to reserve August 6<sup>th</sup> for this site visit.

#### **VII. Policies and Procedures**

A draft of the newly-revised policy and procedures guide was distributed by Kristine Jaros. Discussion was held concerning enlarging the size of the Steering Committee membership. However, increasing the membership from 13 to 17 or to 19 could generate a problem faced in the past regarding obtaining a quorum on a regular basis. The consensus was to remain at 13 members in order to facilitate achievement of the goals of the Steering Committee. Recruiting youth for the Steering Committee was another issue of discussion. This discussion centered around getting the youth more involved the Weed and Seed programs. This will continue to be on-going effort.

Regarding conflict of interest, we will continue to follow Robert's Rules of Order.

Standing Committees include Weed, Seed, Finance, and Personnel. Combining the Finance and the Personnel Committee was discussed, and the consensus was to remain with the four committees as structured.

The policies and procedures ad-hoc committee will take these and all of the remaining changes as approved through the vote and will make the necessary revisions. Voting on the proposed final draft will be completed electronically by all the Steering Committee members.

## **VIII. Reports**

### **a. Budget Report**

1. Discussion on re-allocation of travel funds was initiated by Kristine Jaros in the absence of the Fiscal Agent. The remaining balance in this fund is \$4,784.95. Discussion followed regarding the redistribution of the funds. The following was determined: Four members would be sent to the Neighborhood Association of Michigan Conference to be held September 26-27, 2008, in Flint, Michigan on the University of Michigan campus. Accommodations will be provided by Holiday Inn Express at \$90.00 per person per night. Registration is \$79.00 per person, and travel expenses for the 226 miles round trip at .585 per mile allows \$133.00. \$35.00 per day is allocated for meals. The total cost will be \$462.00 per person with a total of \$1,848.00 for the group. Members attending the conference are Johanna Jelks, Sandra Latham, Marian Barrera-Young, and Kathryn Caliendo.

Another portion of the travel fund is proposed to cover expenses for the Crime Prevention Association of Michigan Conference to be held October 21- 24, 2008 in Mount Pleasant, Michigan. Hotel expenses for three nights is \$75.00 per person for a total of \$225.00 per person. The registration fee is \$325.00 per person. Travel for 170 miles round trip is \$100, using the travel formula. Meals are \$105.00 for the 3 day conference for a total of \$755.00 per person. Captain Eric Payne and Sgt Elliott Bargas noted that conference funds may also be available from the police department. Captain Payne to check on GRPD funding for conference and report at next Steering Committee meeting as to how attendance will be funded and how many people will attend. The travel fund budget related to the CPAM Conference was tabled pending further discussion.

Funding for a 2-book series entitled Donnie and His Little Brown Shoes and Dana and Donnie written by B.J. Holmes was limited to two sets for use at the Youth Summit.

A motion was made to release funds for two set of books by Marian Barrera-Young, and seconded by Sgt Elliott Bargas. The motion was approved.

A motion was made to appropriate funding for the NAM Conference in Flint by Alice Menninga and seconded by Kathryn Caliendo. The motion was passed.

### **b. Weed Report**

Sgt Elliott Bargas provided a report labeled "Central City Weed and Seed Crime Data as of June 30, 2008." As crime is going down in some areas such as curfew violations, burglaries, and arson; crime is rising in other categories as larcenies and domestic assaults. The mapping seems to indicate that crime is shifting from the Central City Weed and Seed area to the South West area of Grand Rapids.

### **c. Seed Report**

#### **1. Domestic Violence Conference**

Alice Menninga had no report.

## **2. Youth Summit**

Marian Barrera-Young restated that the Holmes books would be used.

## **3. Lies That Bind**

A letter was received by Anneshia Freeman requesting funds to bring 25 youth to Chicago for a day-trip to see the activity at the Chicago Mercantile Exchange and to the Federal Reserve Bank to see the history of money as it is made, printed, and shredded. The goal is “to restructure their thinking” and to discover that “their time, energy, and intellectual property” are their greatest value. The amount requested was \$1,500.00 to \$2,000.00. Kristine contacted CCDO regarding use of our funds for this trip. Fred denied the request. If others are aware of funds available, please let Kristine know ASAP.

## **4. National Night Out**

This is to be held on August 5, 2008. Baxter Neighborhood Association is planning to be at Joe Taylor Park. Dean Transportation will be there, a motor cycle exhibit is to be on display, an informational booth is to be set up. Food is expected, and some t-shirts may be available. SEENA is planning to spotlight “Neland Kids” from Neland CR Church, they are to also have a jazz band and an information booth, and snow-cones. Eastown is planning on several block parties and a porch party at the Eastown Hall. GRPD will be attending all events.

## **5. Wealthy Heights**

Kathryn Caliendo reported that planning is underway for an all-day open house in various homes that would qualify for a land trust; a buying option that reduces quick turn-arounds in the real estate market. Photos for homes that qualify for a land trust status and purchase in the Wealthy Heights area will be displayed.

The local colleges are interested in marketing the area as a special value for student housing.

Johanna Jelks has had her employment contract extended for another month.

### **d. Site Coordinator Report**

**1. The Progress Report** is due by July 30, 2008. All committee reports are due. The calendar was handed out containing all events from July through September 2008.

**2. Our Community’s Children-Youth Master Plan Update** – Kristine continues to participate in the Youth Master Planning Process. The Youth Commission will participate in the Teen Summit.

**3.** Kristine Jaros talked with Kaye Hooker about the tape that was shown in Cable Channel 23. Kaye informed Kristine that she had watched the tape carefully, documented the inconsistencies and errors contained within the statements about Weed and Seed that were made on that tape and forwarded to the U.S. Attorney. No further updates are available at this time.

**IX. Announcements and Updates**

Kristine Jaros will be out of the office from August 11 through August 15, 2008.

Neland Christian Reformed Church has Adirondack Chairs on sale for \$80.00. This represents a savings of \$50.00 per chair. The church is located on Neland & Worden S.E. The next meeting of Central City Weed and Seed is on August 27, 2008 at 3:00 p.m

**X. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:14 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ray Tromp

**NEXT MEETING**

**Weed and Seed Steering Committee**

**Wednesday, August 27, 2008**

**Baxter Community Center Grace Conference Room**

**3:00 – 5:00 pm**

***Please* NOTE NEW TIME:**

**3:00 – 5:00 pm**