



**Steering Committee Meeting
GVSU – Class Room 205D
Wednesday, March 26, 2008
12:00 PM – 2:00 PM**

MINUTES

I. Call to Order – Marian Young-Barrera - 12:10

Present: Deputy Chief Farris, Mike Yasenachak, Sgt. Elliot Bargas, Marian Young-Barrera, Captain Eric Payne, Kaye Hooker, Scott Vogel, Haris Alibasic, Alice Menninga, Stacy Stout, Kathy Lett, Kathryn Caliendo, Pamela Benjamin, Olivia Destrades Mendoza, Debra Ross, William Crawley, Kristine Jaros

II. Introductions

Welcome to Scott Vogel from Urban Family Ministries. He has agreed to represent the MANA neighborhood on the Steering Committee.

III. February Meeting Minutes Approval - APPROVED

IV. Policies & Procedures – Kaye Hooker

Hooker: 4 official positions: Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Historian – it is up to the Steering Committee to fill and define roles and the process needs to be initiated

Jaros: proposed process/timeline – nominations by 4/9, publish list sent to Steering Committee on 4/16, voting to take place electronically between 4/16-4/21, and results announced at the 4/23 Steering Committee meeting

KC: **MOTION**: to remove the position of Historian from the policies and procedures/not have this position filled. (2nd – Benjamin) – **MOTION PASSED**

Crawley: acknowledged past value of Treasurer at the Garfield Park site

General discussion – in favor of adding Treasurer in collaboration with fiscal agent

Benjamin: **MOTION**: to add position of treasurer to Policies and Procedures (2nd - KC) – **MOTION PASSED**.

KC: **MOTION**: to have elections for the 4 positions (Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer) (2nd – Benjamin) **MOTION PASSED**

Alibasic: problem of filling Treasurer position?

Hooker: position can be created, then someone recruited to fill it

MOTION: to elect one ‘weed’ representative and one ‘seed’ representative for Chair/Vice-Chair positions – **MOTION PASSED**



KC: MOTION: to follow Jaros’ proposed timeline for electronic elections – **MOTION PASSED**

V. Strategy Development Workshop Update: Pamela Benjamin/Kristine Jaros

Presentation provided by Pamela and Kristine regarding lessons learned at conference. Materials are available to anyone who wishes to see them. Further discussions to take place at future meetings.

VI. Reports

a. Budget Report – Dr. Debra Ross

2006 budget: closed and accepted

2007 budget: contracts going out (Jaros is about halfway finished with these); some invoices coming in (note: all invoices are reimbursed); this budget was rewritten to incorporate some of the plans during the 2008 calendar year; a grant extension was approved – Nov. 30 is the last day for expending money

2008 budget: haven’t heard anything yet

Hooker: DOJ is struggling with financing sites and there are tough decisions that they are having to be make.

Bargas: what is turnaround time for receiving money?

Ross/Crawley: formally recognized to be 4-6 weeks; without any problems, it has routinely taken 5-6 days

b. Weed Report – Elliott Bargas

- since January, approximately 21 guns have been obtained (without warrants), 5 of these from the Weed & Seed area
- one recent arrest within the Weed & Seed area will be able to be prosecuted at the federal level – a positive reflection of the Weed & Seed partnerships

c. Seed Report – Marian Young-Barrera

- no specific date set yet for Youth Summit (aiming for 1st week in Sept.); it will be taking place at Eastern Avenue Christian Reformed Church
- discussion on transfer students’ influence on spreading/affecting gang activity and the role of counselors – as it pertains to the Youth Summit
- there will be another trip to Easttown Ministries: 4/3 at 7:00
- \$500 has been obtained from the Neighborhood Associations of Michigan; American Heart Association and Spectrum Health are willing to and exploring ways to help
- Pioneers for Peace display of gun law loopholes – 4/16



Grand Rapids – Central City

Weed & Seed

A Department of Justice Program

“Weeding out Crime and Seeding with Community Development”

- 25 paid positions are available to 6-12 graders in the area of civic engagement; 18 month terms – contact Shannon Harris: 456-3558

d. Site Coordinator – Kristine Jaros

- Jim Carpenter is still in need of volunteers for 14 youth needing tutoring; this takes place Monday-Thursday 3:15-5:00pm
- Coordinator position available for Baxter Community Center’s “Around the Table Program. Contact Melanie at Baxter or Kristine if interested in more information.
- Promotional items: money available to spend; ideas include notepads (also displaying Silent Observer contact information), stickers/decals, magnets and calendars as options.

VII. Announcements / Updates

a. Next Meetings

- Wed., April 23rd 12-2pm - GRPD - Rm 2057**
- Wed., May 28th, 12-2pm – GVSU – Amway Board Room**

VIII. Adjournment