

**DOWNRIVER COMMUNITY CONFERENCE
REGULAR MEETING – October 1, 2009**

Item #3

Present:

Allen Park	
Brownstown Twp.	Deputy Supervisor Greg Mahar
Dearborn	
Dearborn Heights	
Ecorse	
Flat Rock	Councilman Jonathan Dropiewski
Gibraltar	
Grosse Ile Twp.	
Huron Twp.	Supervisor Elke Doom
Lincoln Park	Mayor Frank Vaslo
Melvindale	Mayor Valerie Cadez
River Rouge	
Riverview	Mayor Tim Durand
Rockwood	Mayor Daniel Guzzi
Romulus	
Southgate	Mayor Norma Wurmlinger
Taylor	
Trenton	Councilman Terry Teifer
Woodhaven	Councilman Edward Smith
Wyandotte	Mayor Joseph Peterson

The meeting was opened by the Chair Terry Teifer, at 6:16 p.m. with community roll call and introductions.

Agenda: Motion by Mayor Durand, supported by Mayor Vaslo, to accept the agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes: Motion by Mayor Peterson, supported by Councilman Dropiewski, to accept the minutes of 9/10/09 as written. The motion passed unanimously.

Presentations:

U.S. Census Bureau: Dennis Caver and several staff members of the Census Bureau made a presentation on the importance of the 2010 Census, and informed the Board that it is vital to get the word out to area residents to participate in the Census. Census data is used to determine population figures that greatly affect congressional districting and funding for all types of programs and services. He said the message for participating in the Census is “10/10/10” – 10 questions; 10 minutes to complete; data is used for 10 years. Mayor Durand asked about employment opportunities with the Census Bureau. There is a website for these opportunities: <http://2010.census.gov/2010censusjobs/>.

There were some technical difficulties with the next presentation, so while those were being worked on, Chairman Teifer presented a special proclamation honoring **Mayor Norma Wurmlinger**, who is retiring at the end of her current term. Mayor Wurmlinger was honored and applauded for her years of dedicated service, not only to the City of Southgate, but to DCC and the region. Mayor Wurmlinger thanked the Board and Jim Perry and the DCC staff for their work on behalf of DCC’s member communities. Motion by Mayor Durand, supported by Mayor Peterson, to approve the special proclamation of thanks and recognition for Mayor Wurmlinger. The motion passed unanimously.

Wayne County Mortgage Foreclosure Prevention Program: Jamele Hage, Acting Director of the Wayne County Mortgage Foreclosure Prevention Program (MFPP) gave an update on the program. The DCC site has been operating for several months. She introduced Gloria Wiley,

who has been working at the DCC MFPP office since it opened. There are several other sites. The program is receiving national recognition. She said that partnerships are the key to the success of the program and she hopes the DCC Board will be ambassadors for the program in terms of informing their residents of the availability of this resource. There are efforts underway to publicize the program, including public service announcements on local cable stations and flyers in water bills. The program helps clients save their home from foreclosure and teaches them how to take care of their home finances in the future to avoid a similar situation. The program's website is www.fightmortgageforeclosure.com. Madelyn Williams of DTE Energy added that it is important for people to know that they need to have their electric service turned off when they vacate a property so the bills stop. Jim Perry said Gloria Wiley has been doing a great job at the DCC MFPP office and he thanked her.

Yard Waste – SB 725: Mayor Tim Durand discussed a proposed resolution for the DCC Board to support SB 725 to restore the opportunity to allow yard waste to be deposited into landfills that have facilities to convert the methane gases into reusable energy. This issue has been discussed in previous meetings. Motion by Mayor Vaslo, supported by Deputy Supervisor Mahar, to approve the resolution as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

Mayor Durand reminded everyone that the Nominating Committee is seeking volunteers to serve as officers for 2010. Cari sent forms to all Board members requesting input. Board members were asked to make sure they complete and return the forms. Chairman Teifer urged everyone to consider becoming involved with DCC as an officer.

Remarks from the Audience:

Cindy Dingell with Wayne County, advised that the Storm Water Ordinance meeting that DCC hosted yesterday went well, and she feels there is positive momentum on this topic. She said County Executive Ficano wants to create and maintain a business friendly environment. She also reminded everyone about the upcoming County Millage Renewal, and encouraged support. Mayors Wurmlinger and Vaslo said Cindy has been very responsive to the communities' needs and they thanked her.

Ryan Werder of Congressman Dingell's office said that the Congressman is pleased to announce that Michigan just received a National Emergency Grant for \$38 million, to assist with workforce development programs (No Worker Left Behind) serving unemployed individuals.

Brian Peters of State Senator Basham's office reported that the state legislature passed a continuation budget, to keep state government operating until a final budget resolution is reached.

Bob Brown, Executive Director of The Senior Alliance (TSA) said the County millage renewal is critical to the continuation of programs like Meals on Wheels and he encouraged support. He also said he is pleased that DCC will be continuing to provide non-emergency medical transportation services to seniors in the region under a contract with TSA.

Mayor Peterson said that he feels that the networking that occurs through the DCC meetings is invaluable to elected officials and he plans to attend or be represented at as many meetings as possible. He commended DCC for their fine work on behalf of their member communities.

Motion by Mayor Durand, supported by Deputy Supervisor Mahar, to adjourn at 7:20 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.