

DOWNRIVER COMMUNITY CONFERENCE
REGULAR MEETING – December 3, 2009

Item #3

Present:

Allen Park	Mayor Gary Burtka
Brownstown Twp.	Trustee Barbara Warren
Dearborn	Mayor Jack O'Reilly
Dearborn Heights	Mayor Dan Paletko
Ecorse	Alternate Karen Crockett, Asst. to Mayor Worthy
Flat Rock	Mayor Jonathan Dropiewski
Gibraltar	Mayor James Gorris
Grosse Ile Twp.	Alternate William Krauss
Huron Twp.	Supervisor Elke Doom
Lincoln Park	Mayor Frank Vaslo
Melvindale	Mayor Valerie Cadez
River Rouge	Mayor Michael Bowdler
Riverview	Mayor Tim Durand
Rockwood	Mayor Daniel Guzzi
Romulus	Delegate Tim Keyes, Economic Development Director
Southgate	Alternate Levon King, City Administrator
Taylor	
Trenton	Councilman Terry Teifer
Woodhaven	
Wyandotte	

The meeting was opened by the Chair Terry Teifer, at 5:13 p.m. with community roll call and introductions.

Agenda: Motion by Delegate Keyes, supported by Alternate King, to accept the agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes: Motion by Mayor Guzzi, supported by Mayor Cadez, to accept the minutes of 11/5/09 as written. The motion passed unanimously.

Presentation:

Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP): Kevin Vettrano of SEMCOG distributed analysis information about the NSP program whose objective it is to fund activities which address the negative impacts of vacant and foreclosed properties in neighborhoods. The NSP is vital to local governments because the costs of maintaining foreclosed properties, enforcing code violations, boarding-up vacant homes, and policing areas with abandoned properties are increasing, at the same time property values and property taxes are declining. Nationally, NSP funding was allocated to 309 government entities, including states, cities, and counties. It was designed to provide resources to reduce the harmful effects that foreclosed and vacant properties have on neighborhoods. The allocation amount designated to each locality was determined by a needs-based formula, defined by the number and percentage of homes in foreclosure, the number and percentage of homes financed by a subprime mortgage, and the number and percentage of homes in default or delinquency. Discussion followed of the process and funding. Mayor Jack O'Reilly explained what Dearborn is doing with purchasing and demolishing older homes. Kevin suggested communities check the City of Dearborn's website on how they are spending funds with this program. Mayor Burtka asked if DCC could pursue funding or assist communities in obtaining funding to help demolish properties. Miles Handy of the Wayne County Executive's office said he would talk to the County Executive to get additional information on this.

Nominating Committee Report/Election of Officers: Mayor Tim Durand, Nominating Committee Chair, reported that at the November meeting, the Nominating Committee presented the following slate of officers to serve during the 2010 calendar year (all are currently interested in continuing in their same capacities): Councilman Terry Teifer of Trenton, as Chair; Mayor Valerie Cadez of Melvindale as Vice Chair; Economic Development Director Tim Keyes of Romulus as Treasurer; and Mayor Frank Vaslo of Lincoln Park as Secretary. He added that Mayor Gary Burtka of Allen Park had expressed interest in serving if a vacancy occurs.

The Chair asked three times if there were any nominations from the floor. There being none, motion by Mayor O'Reilly, supported by Mayor Dropiewski, to close the nominations and elect the slate of officers as presented by the Nominating Committee. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

Renaissance Zone: Mayor Gary Burtka of Allen Park expressed his disappointment and concerns with Wayne County's participation with the Renaissance Zone for Allen Park. He said Allen Park has been working hard to get this approved to promote jobs Downriver through Unity Studios.

Remarks from the Audience:

Aerotropolis: Miles Handy from the Wayne County Executive's Office thanked the board for supporting the Aerotropolis project. The final House bill passed through the transportation committee, and will be moving to the House soon. Speaker Dillon is pushing this forward, because it supports economic development.

The Senior Alliance (TSA): Bob Brown of TSA gave updates on the TSA board reorganization and the new board appointment process. They will meet December 10th at 9:30 a.m. He said they need a "yes" vote from their current board to move forward with reorganization to continue programs for seniors. Cari will send an e-mail to board members for information.

Michael Mendez of the Governor's Southeast Michigan Office, reported that a Round Table discussion is scheduled for December 7th in Southgate to talk about revenue sharing cuts. He said the Governor will be there for the 2:00 p.m. press conference. He asked community leaders to let him know if they plan to attend (e-mail mendezm@michigan.gov or via cell phone (734) 693-2693). The Governor wants to hear how the cuts are affecting communities.

Motion by Delegate Keyes, supported by Mayor O'Reilly, to adjourn at 5:50 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.