

**DOWNRIVER COMMUNITY CONFERENCE
REGULAR MEETING – May 6, 2010**

Item #3

Present:

Allen Park	Mayor Gary Burtka
Brownstown Twp.	Trustee Barbara Warren
Dearborn	Alternate Bill Irving, Asst. Corporation Counsel
Dearborn Heights	Mayor Dan Paletko
Ecorse	Mayor Pro-Tem Darcel Brown
Flat Rock	Councilman Paul Gagne
Gibraltar	Mayor James Gorris
Grosse Ile Twp.	Supervisor Brian Loftus
Huron Twp.	
Lincoln Park	Mayor Frank Vaslo
Melvindale	
River Rouge	
Riverview	
Rockwood	Police Chief Russ Van Wassehnova
Romulus	
Southgate	Mayor Joseph Kuspa
Taylor	
Trenton	Councilman Terry Teifer
Woodhaven	Mayor Pro-tem Jeffrey Harris
Wyandotte	Mayor Joseph Peterson

The meeting was opened by the Chair Terry Teifer, at 6:51 p.m. with community roll call and introductions.

Agenda: Motion by Trustee Warren, supported by Chief Van Wassehnova, to accept the agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes: Motion by Mayor Vaslo, supported by Mayor Kuspa, to accept the minutes of 3/4/10 as written. The motion passed unanimously.

Presentations:

SMART Bus Dedication: Chair Terry Teifer announced that SMART held a vehicle dedication ceremony at 5:30 p.m. in the DCC parking lot.

Downriver Film Office: Mayor Joseph Kuspa of Southgate expressed his interest in creating a Downriver Film Office to help promote this area for prospective film makers. He believes that to adequately compete in this area, we must work cooperatively. The creation of such an office would allow the Downriver region to uniquely market itself to the film industry. When film companies utilize an area for movies, a great deal of revenue is generated as a result. Mayor Burtka of Allen Park said the movie "Salvation Boulevard" is being filmed right now in Allen Park/Dearborn. Mayor Burtka suggested that we start with unifying ordinances in the Downriver area, and put together a bank of photos (i.e. river; forest; etc) and other resources (restaurants; catering; hotels; rental agencies; etc.) so that scouts may peruse for possible locations to film in this area. Sue Pilon said the State of Michigan has a film site with photos and we could also piggy-back with the County (need ordinance on film office). Cari Eggleton will send an e-mail to board members asking for interest in participating in a special sub-committee to discuss this.

The Senior Alliance: Maggie Watson gave updates on the TSA's Annual Implementation Plan which is in the final stage, to be submitted to the TSA Directors the first week of June. The Plan describes their goals & objectives, funding and services, with Fiscal Year October 1 – September 30. Their budget has been affected by the economy as well, however, they will continue to maintain core services such as non-emergency medical transportation (currently provided by

The Senior Alliance (continued):

DCC) and have expanded on other care giver services. She added that with last year's budget of \$12 million, 93% of their funding went directly to services. The Older Michiganians Day is scheduled for June 10th (with registration until June 4th). They can provide breakfast & transportation up to Lansing if anyone wants to go. The TSA serves 34 communities in out-Wayne County and is located in Wayne, Michigan.

Keep Michigan Beautiful (KMB): Trustee Pam Frucci announced that April 1st thru May 31st are official Clean Up Days in Michigan. She distributed a brochure explaining what KMB is, their objectives, awards programs, and history of the organization. She also distributed the Official Nomination Form for the 2010 KMB Awards for board members to submit nominations. This annual awards program recognizes projects that contribute to beautification, clean-up, site restoration, historic preservation, and environmental enhancement in Michigan. Mayor Peterson of Wyandotte said that \$225,000 was raised to build a new Purple Heart monument in Wyandotte – dedication is set for May 31st, 2010, at 4:00 p.m. He'd like to nominate the woman who was instrumental in making it all happen.

SEMCA Board Vacancy: Chair Terry Teifer presented a resolution (hand-out) for action. Motion by Mayor Peterson, supported by Mayor Burtka, to appoint James Van Buren of U.S. Steel to fill the vacancy resulting from the resignation of Gary Kadau of U.S. Steel; and reappoint Frank Lopez of Aztec manufacturing and Paul Szilagyi of Henry Ford Health System for another term, to the SEMCA Workforce Development Board, as presented by the Southern Wayne County Regional Chamber. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

- Three communities doing Central Dispatch: Mayor Joe Peterson announced that three of the DCC communities have agreed to form one Central Police and Fire Dispatch (Wyandotte, Lincoln Park and Southgate), with the person being housed at the new Wyandotte Police Station. He thanked Mayors Vaslo and Kuspa for their support in this effort, and he will send invitations out to the board members when everything is set up for an Open House. Discussion followed of ability for other communities to join at a later time.
- Ventower: Paula Boase referenced the news article that was distributed about Ventower in Monroe, and gave background on the project's financing. It is a wind turbine company that will be hiring 130 people – with the focus on filling these jobs with unemployed skilled trades individuals. This was a Brownfield redevelopment location and they are borrowing \$2 million from the DCC's 504 loan program. Ventower is located just off I-75 in Monroe. The building itself will be 'green'.
- Reemployment Services (RES) Center. Sue Pilon reported that DCC is running a 6-month pilot program through SEMCA called Reemployment Services Center located in Livonia. This program serves laid-off white collared, highly educated, unemployed individuals thru referral. The program is based on a model out of Broward County, Florida. Let Sue Pilon know if you have information about job openings for these customers – program runs thru September 30th.
- MDOT Funding: Mayor Frank Vaslo voiced his concern for MDOT's decision to cut back services for grass mowing along Fort Street – down to four mows for the year. If any community wants to join together to bid, let Mayor Vaslo know. Cindy Dingell of the Wayne County Executive's Office announced that there will be a special DPW meeting at Inkster City Hall on May 18th to discuss issues and concerns. They want to coordinate scheduling of County mows with the communities.

Information Items: There were several items for information included in the board packet.

Motion by Mayor Peterson, supported by Mayor Vaslo, to adjourn at 6:50 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.