

Board Minutes  
**Baxter Neighborhood Association**  
**February Board Meeting**

6:00pm, February 6, 2023

Meeting ID: <https://meet.google.com/xzz-ybiq-xks>

**Mission Statement:**

BAXTER NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION (BNA) IS A NON- PROFIT ORGANIZATION ITS' PURPOSES ARE TO ADVOCATE, EDUCATE, AND EMPOWER RESIDENTS/STAKEHOLDERS, FOCUSING ON PREVENTION, AND NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION, TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE WITHIN THE BAXTER COMMUNITY.

Topic	Pers	Time	Type
<b>Opening</b>			
1	Call to Order 6:04pm	Pres	WO
2	Roll Call, welcome, Overview of the Meeting, Read Mission Statement .1 present: <b>Isaac Brown, Chad Patton, Barbara Davis, Jason Kuipers, Arlan Palmer, Ireatha Smith, Martin Uchendu, Augustin (Gus) Bilodeau, Marian B., Sharon Martin, Albert Williams</b> .2 excused: Christine Flowers (Suzie) .3 absent: .4 visitors: Michael Curtis, Andrew Claucherty from Habitat for Humanity of Kent Co. and Baxter United. ( <a href="mailto:aclaucherty@habitatkent.org">aclaucherty@habitatkent.org</a> ) Angie Macon	Pres	Q 7/13
3	Approval of the Agenda .1 moved: Chad .2 second Barb Motion carried without objection	Pres	WO
4	Approval of the minutes .1 Ireatha 2. Barb Motion carried without objection	Pres	WO
		Pres	
5	Public comment 1. Angie Macon: I'm a local activist and community advocate. So, I just wanted to be more involved with my neighborhood. I haven't created, and I'm familiar with Miss Ireatha. Busy. She's a longtime family friend, so it's getting back into the  2. <b>Andrew Claucherty</b> Neighborhood Revitalization Specialist. Asked where he could find the link for our meeting and minutes and encouraged us to address it. He is here to update us on		

some things Habitat has coming up in the neighborhood as well as the Baxter United Group. Habitat will be hosting well over 400 teenagers through an organization called group Mission trips. They will be here the week of July 9-14. They will be doing a week of home repairs throughout Kent County. He hopes that we have seen some of the flyers that have been distributed in Kent County. They hope to focus on repairs in the Baxter area, so far they have received close to 30 applications just from Baxter and surrounding area for this program. They have hired a neighborhood planning consultant to work with them to help identify some long term goals dreams for what people like to see here in the Baxter Neighborhood. In order that they not duplicate any efforts that (we) Baxter Neighborhood Association is doing. He plans to bring us in as they move this process forward. will be working close with us and he believes this ties in well with the master plan. The Baxter United Group, they have been operating in separate silos this past year. Their intention this year is work close with our association. He wants to collaborate better and work close with all organizations. Their desire is to present a united front to the neighborhood because we all want the same things and same goals. The hope to host the Baxter Summer series in Joe Taylor Park in May June and July and it will not interfere with National Night out in August. They would love for us to partner with them in all those events to continue to grow the community engagement in the neighborhood.

Question for Andrew: Who qualifies for home repairs? Answer: It is usually for low-income and veteran applicants. But they are not asking for income information on the current application. He stated that they live withing the Grand Rapids area and go from there. Follow up question What happens if people are uncomfortable about letting the students use their water and rest rooms? Answer: So, the reason they ask that is that the intention would be that you would be hosting a group of five to ten high schoolers who are here from outside of the state, at your house, for a week, to do the repairs. And so, when possible, if they can use the restroom while they're on site. They would appreciate it. If that is a big concern, they can make other arrangements to have other options available for the volunteers, Follow up question So, it's not the expectation that you would provide food or water or anything for them. Answer: We'll have all of that. But in the event that they are there all day and it would be easy if they could use the restroom.

Question and Iretha: Concern was brought up that Baxter united should be call something else because we have a Neighborhood association. There are a lot of hurt feelings.

Michael answered Andrew's question about the website earlier: he is going to post the link and minutes on the website during this meeting.

Question: How did Baxter United get started. AJ: I am trying to get an understanding that the two organizations that may be in conflict. Baxter United is undermining our association it should be have another name because we are neighborhood association and you told us that you started the group because some people said they couldn't not talk to the Baxter neighborhood association, but yet and still, I feel like the head of Baxter United should have talked to our president because Marian has a lot on her plate. That's the only thing I wanted to know. .... I feel like we should all like you said, work together. But the neighborhood association should have been in this from beginning because we are doing some of the same things and is That's just the way I feel.

There many follow up questions regarding how Baxter United got started: Here is a summary of Andrews response:

It was not their intention to start another Neighborhood association. He understands the conflict and listened to our board members concerns and questions. He is hoping from this point forward that we can move in a positive direction. He also explained that there are three parts to the grant that Habitat received.

Part one is to bring unity to the organizations that work in the neighborhood, like Baxter

Neighborhood association and the community center, as well as the urban league and others, like ITCF, who have an interest in who are doing things in the neighborhood. That's the first, that's the first objective of that grant.

The second objective is to invest in resident leadership. They will be extending the opportunity to others including all of us. He believes he has passed the message along to Marian about that resident leadership program, that's going to be starting in March.

The third piece is to fund relationship building and events in the neighborhood. So, the events they did last summer go under this section. Some money will be made available for people to host smaller engagements. So, if there's anything they can do to extend that to the neighborhood association, please let him know.

After a much passionate discussion, it was agreed that our president and vice president be contacted and included in future discussions.

**Executive Reports From the Board**

6	<p>President's Report</p> <p>.1 Isaac talked to his lodge. His lodge members have committed to partnering with us (Baxter Neighborhood Association on a few projects. Mainly National Night Out and Neighborhood cleanup and other events that board may suggest. Crime is happening everywhere even at woodland creek apartments. It's not just isolated in our neighborhood. They are attempting enter our homes when we are at work. Be Diligent, about Bank of America, Someone actually created the account in a person's name. Marian suggests that we do not open any emails that come from them.</p>			
7	<p>Vice Presidents Report</p> <p>2. Bylaws: They had one meeting. They will be meeting on the second Monday of the month. He wants to make sure that there is transparency. They want to have something for the board to approve by June. The timeline can change. He gave the overview. Anyone can join and Chad will send out the link. Currently Chad, Gus, Jason and Michael are working on the Bylaws.</p>	VP		WO
8	<p>Treasurer Report</p> <p>.1 CBD \$14,633.73 2. \$6,745.83 Marian will meet with Susie tomorrow and will send us a copy of the report when it is uploaded to the city. Motion 1. Iretha 2. Chad Discussion none. Accepted w/o objection</p>	Tres		WO
9	<p>Secretary Report</p> <p>.1 Recording: minutes of other meetings .2 Correspondence: only if letter or email is sent. 3. Attendance Report</p>	Sec.		WO
10	<p>Standing Committees</p> <p>1. Finance Committee (Treas.) 2. Communications (Sec) 3. Vice President -</p>	VP		WO
11	<p>Ad Hoc/At large committees (suggestions)</p> <p>1. Joe Taylor Park Committee</p>	VP		WO

	2. Clean Up Baxter 3. Crime Prevention			
Reports To The Board				
12	<p>Executive Director Report</p> <p>1. She has signed onto the Master Plan. She worked with people from Detroit who did a training on master plans. She will be working with Sherman Street, MLK and others in the SE neighborhood because our boarders are so close together. She plans on connecting with some board members to go over the plans. The kickoff for the Master Plan Tuesday February</p> <p>Public Safety Team; Kathy Williams new captain. She met with her last Friday. She has a couple of FBI agents that she has done some work with. She is going to try to do some active shooter training as a group on blocks and stores so that the neighborhood can be prepared. She is also trying to put together a disaster preparedness plan for our neighborhood. She is working with the city and is hoping to develop and roll out a plan for safe neighborhood for kids. She is still working on gun violence issues in the area.</p> <p>Crime Report: It is happening everywhere in the city. If you see something, please report on silent observer. They have been breaking into stores in the area. Miss Tracy's store has changed some of their store hours. Marian will get those for us.</p> <p>Fanny's Corner is applying for a liquor license. Marian truly feels that we should not have another store in area selling liquor after working so hard to clean up the block. She would like to write a letter to oppose this application.</p> <p>She and two board members did go to a meeting earlier today at Sherman Street to meet with other community connectors including Habitat for Humanity. The goal was to talk about what each group is doing in the community and try not to overlap on our efforts. She thanked the board members who attended with her.</p>	MBY		WO
13	City/GRPD Report .1			WO
14	Member Reports (business associations, groups, etc.) .1			WO
Old Business				
15	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Newsletter/Website update</li> <li>2. BNA office Relocation (tabled until further notice)</li> <li>3. Sub Committees</li> <li>4. Support Letter to Larlen Communications (tabled for today)</li> <li>5. Fund Raising Ideas (tabled for today)</li> <li>6. Working together on Charitable Donation: tabled</li> <li>7. Location for BNA retreat on May 6- Marian is working on options. She has two options so far. One is ICCF space and the other is a church.</li> </ol>			
New Business				
16	.1 Conflict of Interest forms need to be done asap: Marian will send a copy of the document to Isaac who will create an Pdf that			

	can be signed electronically. The password for your signature will be 1234. Once they are all signed, he will send them to the secretary and Maran. The secretary will send all copies that he receives to Marian.			
Public Comment				
16	.1 Open			
Adjourn				
18	.1 Called by President .1. Jason 2. Iretha Closed without objection meeting adjourned at 7:00pm			WO
	Executive Meeting started called to order 7:01pm			
	AB, Barb Davis, Chad Patton, Iretha Smith, Isaac Brown, Jason K, Marian Barrera-Young, Sharon Martin, AJ Arlan Palmer,  We met to debrief on the public comment from Andrew. Board members were able to vent and share their opinions. Our hope is to improve our relationships with other organizations in our area while making sure that we are respected as a key partner in the neighborhood.  We adjourned meeting w/o quorum. @ 7:38pm			