

## **BAXTER NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION**

746 Neland Avenue SE Grand Rapids, MI 49506

February 6, 2018

BNA Board Minutes

- I. Meeting Called to Order: 6:10pm, by Vice-President Cottingham. Agenda approved, and the Mission Statement read by Yousef Antoo. (Introductions were made by everyone in attendance).
  
- II. Attendees
  - A. Present: Norvie Cottingham, Suzie Flowers , Isaac Brown, Abigail Bruins, Deleesa Williams, , Ora Rufin , Sharon Martin, Georgia Farr, Yousef Antoo, Lisa James, and Staff Marian Barrera-Young.
  - B. Officers excused: Barbara Davis and Joe Williams (both were ill)
  - C. Guests: Mary Roach, Bobby Clotman, Michael Curtis, Dain Gates, Christine Helms-Maletic (Uptown), Officer Ryan Richardson, and George Young.
  
- III. Neighborhood Officer's Report
  - A. Officer Ryan Richardson gave his report regarding recent crime statistics. 5 homicides in GR since first of the year. He also stated that he meets with Marian on a weekly basis, and welcomed questions. Officer Ryan Informed the group that they can register at [www.crimemapping.com](http://www.crimemapping.com) for updates on crime, or talk to BNA Staff. He also passed out his contact information, and also warned parents to watch out for children eating Tide Pods and stay up on new trends in drugs.
  - B. Mary Roach expressed concerns regarding police swabbing people for drugs at traffic stops. Officer Ryan stated that must be in other municipalities that was not here in Grand Rapids.
  
- IV. President's Report: Tabled due to absence.
  
- V. Vice President's Report: Updated group on the Franklin and Eastern Business Association, he was named President of the association, and Marian Barrera-Young was also named Secretary for the organization. Yousef Antoo is the Vice President and the Treasurer is the 5/3 Bank Manager. Also discussed the meeting with the commissioners. BNA will place minutes on our webpage for more transparency, minutes are also always available at the board meetings and our webpage is [www.bnagr.org](http://www.bnagr.org).
  
- VI. Treasurer's Report: Christine Flowers: Checks for reimbursements from December check #01321015 written 1/18/2018 for \$2,580.29, housing code reinforcement check #0320223 written 1/09/2018 for \$712.00, and check #01320341 for \$460.00 received for the business district (Franklin/Eastern BP, and Tracy's Party Store.
  
- VII. Secretary's Report: Read last month's Minutes. Minutes were accepted (after a motion, a second to the motion and vote). Bylaws Committee will be meeting to review and revise Bylaws. Date to be determined and the Marketing Committee will be meeting in March to give input on Logo and Tag Lines working with BNA's consultant.

- VIII. Guest Dain Gates requested all present introduce themselves. All introductions done. She expressed concern for neighborhood involvement.
- IX. Guest speaker moved up in agenda due to time constraints. Christine introduced herself as a member of UptownGR. The organization does work with streets and mobility. Street beautification, bike racks, benches etc. Wants to build alliances with neighborhoods within their boundaries of which they serve. UptownGR is also asking that each of the 5 neighborhoods within the boundaries to become involved and would like a BNA representative sit on the Uptown board. Uptown's 2017 Annual Report was made available for review.
- X. Yousef Antoo was moved up in agenda due to time constraints. He explained his request for Special land use regarding removing condemned home attached to store which contains high levels of mold be demolished to make room for store expansion which will provide healthy food choices for residents. Special land use at City hall scheduled for 2/22/2018. It was asked by Deleesa Williams what can the board to provide support but was informed that would be a conflict of interest, because you cannot represent the neighborhood association, but as a residents that is up to you, but only as a resident.
- XI. Executive Director's Report:
- A. Marian needed a motion to accept the RFP, Abigail motioned to accept the RFP and it was seconded by Daleesa, there was a vote and the motion was passed.
  - B. Marian asked that some members become ambassadors for the Southtown CID Community/Business input sessions. She stated that the Steering Committee along with Consultants are identifying locations for community input and she was on the Steering committee and that we need everyone to get involved, residents and businesses. The Ambassadors are residents or business owners that will assist with surveys, assist individuals that are trying to navigate on computers answering questions, and giving input on the Franklin/Eastern area. These Ambassadors will receive training (they have two trainings, one in the morning and one in the evening to accommodate individuals that have to work).
  - C. Marian is also working with the Adams Apartments on a traffic safety issues. Vehicles are not stopping for individuals that are trying to cross Fuller from the Adams apartments. Last year one of their residents was killed in an auto accident in this same area. She is requesting that the Traffic Safety work with her and the Adams apartments Staff to deal with this Public Safety condition.
  - D. Marian also donated \$50.00 to Adams Apartments for a vacuum cleaner to be placed in a raffle for residents who attend the next meeting in March 2018.
  - E. "Week of Hope" work camp to start in June of 2018. Marian also stated that she is ahead of schedule for her goals and requirements.
  - F. She is also working with Neighborhood Associations of Michigan to schedule a conference in Muskegon.
  - G. Stated that crime is up in the neighborhoods but not in Baxter.
  - H. Marian also mentioned the need for new signage for the building. Marian will check with Handicapped Signs on Wealthy and see how much it would cost, because they worked with BNA before to make a sign for BNA in the past and it was not very expensive.

- I. Michael Curtis volunteered to assist Baxter board members to work on a new logo so, Abigail motioned to have Michael make the sign and it was seconded by Ora Ruffin. Opened for discussion at which time Daleesa wants a few members to assist Michael in the design of said signage. Which also includes branding and design. Abigail also asked that the motion be amended to make a committee for signage. Amended and Abigail, Ora and Michael to begin work on new signage committee and will meet on 2/13/2018 at 746 Neland Ave SE.
  
- XII. Board Retreat: Prefer dates which would allow greater attendance for all board members. It was asked if the retreat could be split into two nights. Daleesa will send out emails regarding dates in the following week. (Board Retreat will be in March of 2018).
  
- XIII. Updates on Zoning. Abigail stated that members of neighborhood associations become board members to represent their respective neighborhoods.
  
- XIV. Old Business
  - A. web page updates
  - B. Staff training and board retreats for training
  - C. Michael Curtis stated that we should never create standing committees and that this be removed during Bylaw's revision.
  
- XV. New Business
  - A. February 22<sup>nd</sup> @ 1:40pm 1120 Monroe Ave NW 2<sup>nd</sup> floor- Hearing for Yousef Antoo special land use.
  - B. Report submitted and all goals for 2018 are on track
  - C. Open Forum – no remarks from participants
  - D. Next meeting March 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm 746 Neland Ave SE
  
- XVI. Meeting Adjourned: Motion made, seconded and approved for 7:55pm