

DESHON-ROCKBRIDGE COMMUNITY COALITION

MARCH 9, 2010

MINUTES from Meeting

Minutes from previous meeting can be viewed on our website

1. Meeting brought to order at 7:30 PM.

2. Acknowledgement of guest speakers and attendees

- a. Chris Morris, Director of Dekalb Community Development Department
- b. State Representative Billy Mitchell, District 88
- c. Desmond Weston - Maintenance MD
- d. Pastor Eugene Evans

3. Maintenance MD

- a. Presented as the sponsor of this meeting.
- b. They provided refreshments and gave a brief description of their company and what they are offering for the Deshon-Rockbridge area.
- c. Maintenance MD is a privately owned company specializing in the repair and continued maintenance of residential property.
- d. www.maintnenancemd.com

4. Liquor Store Coming to Area

- a. Marcus Wilson, President, updated the community about the new liquor store that will be opening at the Water's Edge Shopping Plaza. The store's location was challenged by the Mountain Oaks community as it is in close proximity to their residences. A survey was requested by the county and in fact the store's location is in compliance. The location is also a commercially zoned area, thus the store does not have to seek approval through the zoning process.
- b. In response to questions regarding how we can prevent such occurrences in the future?
 - i. Members were encouraged to participate in an Overlay District Process. They were provided a brief orientation of the benefits especially in regards having a say about what kinds of businesses we want in our community and creating standards that existing businesses will have to comply with.
 - ii. Next Steps - A sign up sheet was passed around to sign up for the Overlay Committee.

5. State Representative Billy Mitchell - House Bill 972

- a. This bill will require banks to provide a 90 day notice before foreclosing on a home
- b. Would also require banks to accept payment from owners if they were able to acquire the monies owed within the 90 day period.
- c. Banks are lobbying hard to have the 90 day time frame reduced.
- d. Members were encouraged to contact their Senators and State Representatives and demand passage of the bill as written.

- e. When calling your Senators and State Representatives, please use the following slogan
 - i. "Having the right to cure and no time to cure is no cure"!

6. NSP – Neighborhood Stabilization Project

- a. Chris Morris, Director of DeKalb Community Development distributed brochures about the housing incentive program that is available through the 18.5 million stimulus dollars to buy foreclosures in the county.
- b. There are two programs being offered.
 - i. One is where the individual can utilize real estate agents to identify a foreclosed property he wants to purchase.
 - 1. The owner will receive a \$25,000.00 mortgage discount over a ten year period.
 - 2. The maximum cost of a home in this program is \$200,000 and it must be located in HUD designated areas with high foreclosure rates.
 - ii. The second program involves the purchasing of foreclosed properties that have been rehabbed by the county.
 - 1. The homes are being sold at 1% below the appraised value.
 - 2. Properties will be first offered to police and fire fighters before being available to the general public.
 - 3. All candidates must have 8 hours of counseling from HUD approved Counseling Agencies.
 - 4. There is a \$300.00 referral reward for homeowner associations that refer buyers to the program.
- c. Members were strongly encouraged to market their neighborhoods.
- d. Members were also instructed to email Chris the addresses of foreclosed properties in their communities so that they might be added to the programs.
- e. Marcus added the importance of using the coalition website to promote positive things that our happening in the community.

7. Miscellaneous

- a. The Office of Neighborhood Empowerment, headed by Betty Davis is a place to take our county concerns
- b. Publix is not closing! It is in the process of remodeling. We need to continue to support them as much as we can so that they can remain in our community to serve us.
- c. There are Beautification Grants subdivisions can apply for from the county for \$250.00. They are distributed every quarter.

8. Meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM