

Comstock Park Educational Foundation

Meeting Minutes – February 8, 2010

Members Present: Jim Gilbert, Ethan Ebenstein, Missi McPherson, Mike Brown, Nick Groulx and Denise Clement

Jim Gilbert called the meeting to order at 8:15 am.

Discussion/Planning Items:

- We will host an evening CPEF meeting next month in hopes to increase interest in community members who are unable to attend our 8 am meetings. Denise challenged everyone to bring at least one new CPEF member to next month's meeting. The primary focus at that meeting will be to educate new members to the CPEF and to start planning the Hacking for Education golf outing.
- We did start discussing the Hacking for Education golf outing and several good ideas for new events/games, raffles, auction, and corporate sponsorships were discussed. This discussion will continue next month. Mike will contact Fox Motors to arrange a car to be located on the course for a hole in one contest. Winner would win a free one year lease of the vehicle.
- Community Volunteer Opportunity – Jim Gilbert will follow-up with Forge Industrial Staffing for their offer of 10 volunteers and suggest that they be involved with the golf outing in May.
- Playground Project at York Creek – the CPEF was approached by Sharon Loughridge, Director of DA Blodgett (and former CP Board member) with an opportunity to get involved with this project. Details are on the attached page. Ethan was going to follow-up with Sharon as the CP Rotary is also interested in becoming involved with this project. We may offer some "muscle" and volunteer our time, however probably no monetary support for the project.

Upcoming Deadlines:

- The April/May Schoolhouse Article will contain details for the Hacking for Education Golf Outing; a list of 2010 CPEF Grant Award Winners and a reminder of the evening 3/8/10 CPEF meeting.
- Denise will also share all the CPEF Award Winner info with the Advance Newspaper.
- 2nd Annual Duck Race will be on Friday, October 1, 2010
- 2nd Annual Holiday Tree Silent Auction will be on Saturday, November 20, 2010

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 am. Next meeting will be at 6 pm on 3/8/10. Invite all your friends!

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Clement, Secretary,

I am contacting you with a great project to help our community, and was hoping that each of the groups you represent will see a vested interest in committing to participate in it.

As most of you know I am the Executive Director of D.A. Blodgett for Children and St. John's Home, two child welfare organizations that merged 1/1/2010, in Kent County. I also served 12 years on the Comstock Park School board and have lived in CP for over 30 years. So, CP holds a very dear place in my heart. Projects to support our community's children is a real bonus as it also fits with my work.

Comstock Park schools was a partner in the Kent School Services Network for two years, 2008 and 2009 school years. My agency was the social work service provider in the school, so that is my connection. This is a Community Schools project that brought resources to the community, collaboration and with a recent \$6 million Federal System of Care Grant, this project will see expansion for those schools continuing their involvement. While CP was part of this project, our social worker stationed at Pine Island Elementary was working with the York Creek Apartment Complex to submit a proposal to KABOOM, which constructs playgrounds in communities. York Creek has already agreed to rip up their virtually unused tennis courts and expand the parking lot in that area, to make available space for a KABOOM playground within the apartment complex grounds.

The KABOOM playground would be a godsend to the children in this area who have no such place to burn off energy in a healthy, constructive manner.

Here is the pitch – I was recently contacted by the representative from KABOOM. They are extremely interested in pursuing this project. The area is secured and will be prepared by York Creek, KABOOM personnel handle the creation and construction of the playground itself. The issue is that they always seek some level of funding for the project from the community nonprofit organizations. While my agency was in the lead on the project, we had proposed to help locate the funds for the project. But, once Comstock Park schools eliminated their involvement in KSSN, we no longer had a social worker stationed there or had any involvement in the project.

So, I am turning to the Comstock Park School Board, the Comstock Park Educational Foundation, Alpine Township and the Comstock Park Rotary to see if as community partners you would agree with me that this is a worthwhile project. The cost for each of the organizations identified would be approximately \$2,000.

I frankly have no official role, and could turn this project over to one of you (perhaps the Rotary), as the wheels are well in motion and I do not believe there would be much work on your part beyond committing to the \$2,000.

Again, as a community member, I know (and you know) the desperate need we have for such a project in the apartment complex. If you are interested in seeing one such structure, a KABOOM playground was recently completed at the Sweet St park in Grand Rapids, corner of College and Sweet Street, behind Creston High School.

Please let me know your initial thoughts. I am more than happy to coordinate a discussion meeting if that would be helpful. If I have not contacted the correct person in your organization would you kindly forward this on.

Thanks for your consideration.

Sharon L. Loughridge, Executive Director 616.451.2021