

**Community Policing Action Council (CoPAC)  
Ypsilanti, Michigan**

**Minutes  
February 6, 2007  
6pm, Haab Building**

**In Attendance:**

CoPAC Members: Peter Hubbard (Gerganoff), Allen Morgan (CHENA), Megan Turf (Prospect Gardens), Rod Johnson (Historical Eastside), Matt Harshberger (YPD), Greg Peoples (EMU), Beth Bashert (Normal Park), Robert Miller (Friends of the YPD), Harvey Krage (Midtown), Sarahanne Wright (Miles Area), Linda French (Riverside), Diane Keller (Ypsi Chamber)

Others: Mark Higbee (Ypsi-EMU Alliance), Kathleen Conat (Ypsi-EMU Alliance), Marti Bombyk (EMU Gear Up), Russ Olwell (EMU Gear Up)

**Treasurer's Report**

\$1850.65 total.

**Outstanding Dues Owed**

The following groups are currently unable to vote until they become current with their dues. Please see Robert Miller (ypsimit@sbcglobal.net) to make your group current:

**MULTIPLE YEARS OWED:**

- Miles Area – 2005 and 2006 and 2007. \$105 total (\$35/year)
- Worden Gardens – 2005 and 2006 and 2007. \$105 total (\$35/year)
- Ypsilanti Housing Commission – 2005 and 2006 and 2007. \$75 total (\$25/year)

**2007 ONLY OWED:**

- Depot Town Assoc. – 2007. \$35
- Historic South Side NA – 2007. \$35
- Midtown NA – 2007. \$35
- Woods Road NA – 2007. \$35
- Ypsi Chamber of Commerce – 2007. \$25

Dues for 2007 were due at the January 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting!

- Full Associations - \$35
- Associate Associations - \$25

If you are unclear which group you belong in, please contact Robert Miller (ypsimit@sbcglobal.net).

## **EMU Gear Up Presentation**

(see brochure at the end of the minutes)

Marti Bombyk & Russ Olwell came and did a presentation about a new grant that was awarded for the study of 7<sup>th</sup> graders in East & West Middle schools. There are a couple of goals of this research project

- To have 70% of current seventh-graders in post-secondary education within 6 years. (This new year's seventh grade class will be the first to face the new high school requirements of math, science, and English).
- Reduce the number of remedial college courses.
- Increase community involvement in the project (neighbors, parents, other volunteers).

The schools that were eligible to be a part of the study were middle schools where 50% or more of the student body receives free or a reduced cost lunch.

Marti is interested in visiting each NA and presenting the project to the group as well as, specifically, any parents that are present.

Partnering with this grant is the Ypsilanti Housing Commission, Ypsilanti Fire Department, and the Ypsilanti Chamber of Commerce.

## **Ypsi-EMU Alliance Presentation**

(see notes at the end of the minutes)

Co-chair's Mark Higbee and Kathleen Conat came and gave a presentation as to why they thought that College Place should not be closed.

Some of the larger points are:

- Loss of parking spaces along College Place & Perrin
- Change in traffic patterns (people having to travel 4/10s of a mile longer to go up to Forest.
- Perrin is 10ft narrower than College Place and would be turned into a two-way street.
- Direct contact to Pease Auditorium will be cut off.

Please see Mr. Higbee's notes on the last two pages.

## **Committees**

It was decided that we will revisit the possible committees at a later date, but the following were submitted to be the only ones necessary:

- Marketing – this group would handle the website, organizing group showings at the parades, ordering pencils, t-shirts, booth at Heritage Fest, etc.
- Picnic – this group would be made up of the NAs hosting the picnic for the current year.
- Ad Hoc – create any as needed for only as long as needed.

## **Neighborhood Reports**

### CHENA

- No report given.

### DTA

- No report given.

### EMU

- No report given.

### GATEWAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

- No report given.

### GERGANOFF

- No report given.

### HERITAGE PARK

- No report given.

### HISTORIC EASTSIDE

- No report given.

### HISTORICAL SOUTHSIDE

- No report given.

### MIDTOWN

- No report given.

### NORMAL PARK

- No report given.

### PROSPECT GARDENS

- No report given.

### PROSPECT PARK

- No report given.

### RIVERSIDE

- No report given.

### WOODS ROAD

- No report given.

### YPSILANTI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

- No report given.

### YPSILANTI POLICE DEPARTMENT

- No report given.

## **Old Business**

### Website update

Megan is listing individual NA meeting dates and times on the events page. If you are interested in having your group's meetings listed, send her the info:

[mturf@isr.umich.edu](mailto:mturf@isr.umich.edu)

### DNA Letter

Margaret Ann announced that she had received the information for this and will be passing it on to Megan Turf to start the letter to our State Legislature. (Obviously, this still hasn't been started yet. Will keep you informed).

## **New Business**

### Change of meeting day??

At the end of the March 6<sup>th</sup> meeting, there will be a vote of eligible groups (dues must be paid!) to change the meeting date from the first Tuesday of the month to the fourth. City Council meets the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> and Gerganoff meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday. Everyone seemed ok with staying with a Tuesday.

## **Nuisance Abatement Team Update**

No report given

## **Next Meeting**

NEXT REGULAR MEETING TUES., March 6, 2007 – City Department Heads  
EXECUTIVE MEETING TUES., April 3, 2007

## **Gear Up Community Partners**

*Altarum  
Be You  
Christ Temple Baptist Church  
Greater Shiloh Church of God in Christ  
Help Source  
The Henry Ford Museum  
Huron Valley District Laymen's Recreation  
Dept.  
Messiahs Temple  
Parkridge Community Center  
Second Baptist Church  
St. Joseph Mercy Hospital  
United Parcel Service  
Washtenaw Chapter Michigan Masons  
Washtenaw Intermediate School District  
Wayne-Westland Community Schools  
Willow Run Community Schools  
Ypsilanti Chamber of Commerce  
Ypsilanti Fire Department  
Ypsilanti Housing Commission  
Ypsilanti School District*

Funded by the U.S. Department of Education

Eastern Michigan University, in conjunction with the school districts of Ypsilanti, Willow Run and Wayne-Westland.

## **Eastern Michigan University GEAR UP**

**Gaining Early Awareness and  
Readiness for Undergraduate  
Programs**



**Serving East and West  
Middle Schools in Ypsilanti,  
Michigan**

In the summer of 2006, Eastern Michigan University was awarded a grant from the United States Department of Education. This grant, known as GEAR UP (which stands for Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs), will serve five schools in three local districts – East and West Middle Schools (Ypsilanti), Willow Run Middle School (Willow Run) and Adams and Franklin Middle Schools (Wayne-Westland).

The GEAR UP program will follow this school year's (2006-2007) 7<sup>th</sup> graders for the upcoming six years until the summer before college, 2012.

Through a wide variety of programs and events, GEAR UP's goal is to motivate and help these students to greater academic achievement and increase the number of students who apply and attend a post-secondary school.

GEAR UP students will benefit from many programs, including before and after school tutoring, mentoring, college visits, weekend programs, summer programs, and much more.

GEAR UP will not only focus on students, but their families and schools as well. Events and workshops on the financial aspect of college, how to choose the right school, among many others will help out our students' families along their journey to college.

### **East Middle School**

Gear Up for the School Day!  
7:15am, Room 112

A program designed to help students complete any unfinished homework, prepare for tests, get organized and work on group projects. Breakfast is available.

Tutors are available during each and every school day.

After school tutoring available  
Monday through Thursday until  
4:30pm, Room 805

### **West Middle School**

Tutors are available during each and every school day.

After school tutoring available  
Monday through Thursday until  
4:30pm.

**For more information,  
Please Contact Us at**

734-487-0372

203 Boone Hall

Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197

[www.emugearup.org](http://www.emugearup.org)

Ypsilanti Site-Coordinator – **Kelli  
Hatfield**  
[kelligearuppsi@aol.com](mailto:kelligearuppsi@aol.com)

## Ypsi-EMU Alliance notes

**The EMU Administration wants to spend \$1.3 million in public money to close a city street, College Place, and turn it into a “pedestrian mall.” To do this, EMU requires city permission. The city should say “no” because closing College Place is a very bad idea for Ypsilanti and our neighborhoods, for the following reasons:**

- **Cul-de-sacs are for suburbs, not major city streets:** College Place is a heavily used city street, serving real community transportation needs. Closing it and turning Forest Avenue – another heavily used city street -- into a cul-de-sac will seriously harm access to town from the EMU campus, and will disrupt the drives to work and home for countless residents of Ypsilanti neighborhoods to the east of the campus, and could delay the speed of emergency vehicles going to the east side.
- **Loss of parking:** All the parking spots now on College Place and on Perrin St. north of Cross will be lost – that’s about 70 parking spots in the West Cross Street area. Probably the approximately 23 spots on Perrin between Cross & Emmet would also have to be sacrificed, if Perrin has to absorb the traffic now carried on College Place.
- **Harm to West Cross Street businesses:** reducing public parking and making it harder to get to the area will be harmful to local businesses, both those already existing and to potential new businesses. The revitalization of Cross Street as a commercial district serving the town & campus depends on business development. *Ypsilanti cannot afford to strangle that potential – businesses need nearby on street parking.*
- **Public safety concerns - “eyes on the park”:** The EMU plan will create a large nearly always empty public space, with no traffic, no businesses, no regular uses; such spaces often become dangerous at night. Pedestrian malls are well known for their tendency to attract undesirable elements.
- **Traffic disruptions and extra driving on residential streets:** Closing College Place will add 4 tenths of a mile to the trip of anyone driving to the EMU classroom building PrayHarrold from the west. PrayHarrold – the most frequented “destination” point in the city of Ypsilanti - serves about 10,000 students per day ([www.prayharrold.com](http://www.prayharrold.com)). If just one tenth of students going to PrayHarrold drive to the PrayHarrold area of campus from west of campus, that means 1,000 cars a day will each drive an extra 4 tenths of a miles on narrow residential streets from Normal to Ballard and Washtenaw to Forest.
  - An area that now has relatively smooth traffic will, if College Place is closed, be often congested, have more air pollution and noise from traffic, and lots of lost drivers trying to find campus. And commuter students who get lost in Ypsi are unlikely to spend money in town.
- **The College Place closing project has been very badly planned:**
  - Traffic volume on College Place, Perrin, and the relevant portions of Cross Street have never been counted.
  - Pedestrian and bike traffic to campus have never been counted.
  - The necessary rerouting of AAATA buses and emergency vehicles have not been properly investigated. *(The top EMU official in charge of this project, in October 2006, did not even know there was a bus route on College Place, or that Perrin Street is much narrower than College Place).*

- Although the official rationale for this plan is to improve “non-vehicular” transportation, the needs of pedestrians and bicyclists are slighted by EMU Administrator; for instance, last summer, the area around PrayHarold was resurfaced, but no new bike racks were added, despite years of promises that this simple improvement would be made. Bicyclists who study or work in PrayHarold have a dire shortage of legal spots for our bikes, and EMU tolerates this year in and out. So it seems that non-vehicular transportation is the pretext, but not the real reason for, the EMU plan to close College Place.
- Another problem is that it has yet to be made clear what the exact terms the “exchange of leases” between City and EMU will be; it’s a moving target, with nothing certain except the loss of a city street and the dead-ending of another.
- **The College Place closure will in no way benefit the residents of Ypsilanti and our neighborhoods.** Instead it will erect a barrier between campus and town. EMU has no plans to generate activities on the so-called “College Place Mall” or Pease Park: they will be nearly always empty public spaces, used by far fewer people than use the street now.
- **Improvements are needed on College Place** -- repaving, new curbs, and perhaps a mid-block pedestrian cross-walk. EMU can build the proposed bike path whenever it wants, on its own empty land, without closing the street. But these normal improvements, friendly to residents, are a far cry from the radical and expensive plans of the EMU Administration to block off the one point where the town and the campus more closely connect to each other.
- **Pease Auditorium is a major community asset that ought to be capitalized on, not isolated from Cross Street:** Closing College Place will radically reduce the ease of access to Pease, and make it hard to locate for out of towners. This will be bad for the potential synergy of Pease as an entertainment destination and Cross Street as a dinning/shopping locale. And Pease Auditorium, a historic and beautiful building, was, like all great halls, built to face a working street. And Where will school buses drop off school children if College Place is closed.
- **Pedestrian malls are close cousins to “urban renewal”** projects, and have had a similarly dismal track record. They create “dead space” and displace people and necessary activities. Ypsi has paid a high price for urban renewal – we can’t afford to pay a similar price for creating a pedestrian mall for EMU. Like urban renewal, pedestrian malls were thought up in the 1960s and became a fad; meant to solve multiple problems, they instead usually created isolated and underutilized public space. At best, a pedestrian mall can support nearby activities; it cannot generate them. But perhaps the goal is not to have activities, but instead to separate the campus from the town: That goal is consistent with the direction of EMU campus planning for the last few decades.

**Ypsi-EMU Alliance: email c/o [mhigbee@emich.edu](mailto:mhigbee@emich.edu), or call 483-3924  
Web site – [SaveCollegePlace.com](http://SaveCollegePlace.com) – up soon.**