

TO: Mayor and City Commission

FROM: Kathie S. Grinzinger



SUBJECT: Status Report – August 2008

1. This Week At The Borden Building

As predicted in the last status report, the SPACE, Inc. portion of the job has begun in earnest this third week of August. The \$1 million SPACE contract covers much of the interior accoutrements of the condominium that will become City Hall in the redeveloped Borden Condensery.

Carpet squares are being laid over the raised flooring which covers the internal cabling system throughout the space. The Haworth A.I. (freestanding) walls that enclose conference and copy rooms and the offices that require more confidential meeting spaces started to go up Tuesday. The final leg of the SPACE agreement is the installation of the furniture. We are expecting workspace furnishings to arrive in mid-September.

CMD's subcontractors seem to be concentrating this week on electrical, interior brick work, and finish work in the Chambers. Elevators are expected to be tested and operable in the next week or so as well.

Six bidders took part in a pre-bid conference in the soon-to-be Commission Chambers on the 14th of August. The successful company will install the public address system and the video and audio equipment allowing public meetings to be cablecast and recorded. We fully expect to spend a few weeks after the first Commission meeting in the continuing company of the successful bidder to look for the best solution to control sound delivery in the room.

2. Welcoming Back Central Students

If you have traveled down Mission Street in the last few days you are extremely aware that the first official move-in day on campus was Thursday, August 21. Mt. Pleasant Police officers, Firefighters and Code Enforcement officers invited CMU Public Safety personnel to accompany them on their annual August walk around the off-campus student neighborhoods this year. We attempt to stop by each rental property in the traditionally student neighborhood during "welcome week" to introduce ourselves and deliver information about City services, City ordinances and safety precautions. (On Tuesday we met 67 new friends.)

This year we are sponsoring a "Lights On Main Street" project that we ran up the flagpole last spring with the City-CMU Student Liaison Committee. Students had told us they felt

that certain streets around campus felt dark and often unsafe as they walked to and from campus and downtown. A survey of the street lights revealed that there was no difference in those neighborhoods from any other residential area in the City. What we did notice, however, was that nearly all the residences had darkened porch lights that could leave walkers with a less than inviting feeling.

Taking a page from Student Life's effort to get students to take extra steps to "Take Care" of themselves and each other, we are combining our usual welcome back message with another. By passing out free light bulbs we are asking residents to keep their porch lights on in the evening to provide a greater feeling of refuge for their neighbors and fellow students.

City Police officers have also played an active role in orientation programs this past summer by delivering messages on personal safety. They will continue their partnership with CMU through several other activities in these next few weeks.

The Fire Department added an additional service to renters and parents of renters earlier this year that seems to have been extremely well received. All inspection and licensing records are now available on the web as are records of violations and corrections. Parents can now easily verify that a potential school year address for their child has been inspected, is licensed and free of violations. This service has saved several firefighters from the last-minute hysterical call from a parent who sees the property her child leased for the first time the week before school begins.

We will begin adjusting schedules this week to provide weekend coverage in the Building Safety/Code Enforcement Department. By being available the first few weekends of the school year, Code Enforcement officers get the "be a good neighbor" message out early to residents who may be living on their own for the first time. Our first few visits are always instructional and we most often concentrate on trash regulations, recycling options, post-party clean-up expectations, and yard parking rules.

3. Construction Project Updates

Whew!!! Washington Street was in fact completed before move-in day and looks pretty darn good. Malley Construction performed on time and within budget. The alley paving and drainage projects in our August target neighborhood were completed in time as well. Work on the local streets began in mid-July. Unfortunately, some of that work was delayed, extending the anticipated completion to mid-September. The cast iron water main replacement project is underway.

Except for a few small areas where follow-up will be required, PK Contracting has completed replacement of pavement markings throughout the City. If you have noticed that the little white lines on the streets seem to fade a lot sooner than they used to, you are absolutely right. Many of the paint products used on street surfaces in past years to

denote lanes and parking spaces have been deemed environmentally risky. The latest replacement recipes, however, have proven to have a completely unsatisfactory lifespan.

PK Contracting uses a reflective tape that is both environmentally acceptable and longer lasting than other products. It is, of course, more expensive than what we have used in the past. By decreasing the number of feet of striping applied we have been able to justify using the more expensive product. We are removing the secondary stop line at intersections in neighborhoods since that marking is not required nor considered necessary on local streets in residential areas.

Work at the Mt. Pleasant Municipal Airport is going gangbusters. Drywall is up and the security fencing and generator specifications are out for bid. Bids will appear on a future Commission agenda for consideration. An open house will be planned and announced.

The Access Adventure Trail continues to move forward as well. Chris Bundy, Director of Recreation and Athletics, is serving as construction manager for this project and as the City's representative to the Mt. Pleasant Community Foundation and the Kellogg Foundation. Chris has engaged several academic disciplines in the development of this project. Biology students have inventoried trees and marked out an easement trail in Veit's Woods for construction equipment that will do the least amount of damage. Other classes are designing signage for the finished trail. CMU students will also be scripting and recording the audio that can be downloaded to provide travelers without sight a narrative tour of the wetlands.

Construction is going on in Mill Pond Park as well. MDOT is investing \$203,000 to repair the pump station on West High Street. The work includes water quality improvements, retaining wall construction, and improving access to the site. Not only will this project provide another link in the Riverwalk, it will help to cure some of the ongoing drainage problems MDOT has been experiencing in that area of High Street.

4. For Your Calendars

The City Commission will receive the Proposed 2009 Annual Operating Budget at the first meeting in September. A presentation by the Manager and Assistant Manager on the direction and highlights of the proposed budget will be scheduled for one of the following meetings. Several work sessions will be reserved during October and November to provide time for Commissioners to discuss the plan prior to approval, which is required no later than the last meeting in December. A tentative calendar will be provided to Commissioners with the budget document.

I will be attending the International City/County Management Association Conference in Richmond, VA from September 19th through the 25th. Ms. Ridley will be acting City Manager during that time and will be at the dais with you for the meeting of September 22nd.

The following week is the Michigan Municipal League Annual Convention. To date, five Commissioners have indicated their intention to attend. The opening session is scheduled for Wednesday, October 1 at 4:00 p.m. and meetings will conclude on Saturday the 4th. As I will be attending that conference as well, Ms. Ridley will once again act as City Manager.

We should all be home just in time to attend the open house at the Fire Department/Public Safety Building. Mt. Pleasant Firefighters will kick off National Fire Prevention Week with activities on Sunday, October 5, from noon to 3:00 pm.

Commissioners will be contacted by Mrs. Ervin in the next few weeks in the hope of finding an acceptable date in mid-October for an afternoon retreat. Prior to that time we will provide Commissioners with a mid-year report on the progress made to date toward completion of 2008 goals and objectives.

KSG/je