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| Program/Area: | Improving the Physical Environment & Increasing Education & Economic Opportunities Workgroup |
| Meeting Purpose: | To share ideas, report on activities, and make decisions for projects concerning the improvement of the physical environment & increasing education & economic opportunities in the towns of Covert, Lodi, Ovid, & Romulus. |
| Meeting Date:  | June 21, 2021 |
| Meeting Time:  | 6:30pm |
| Meeting Location:  | Zoom |
| Workgroup Leader: | Karel Titus & Ave Bauder |
| Attendees: | Jean Currie, Theresa Lahr, Deborah Puntenney, Ave Bauder, Karel Titus, Janet Lynch, Kim Pollack |
| Minutes Issued By:  | Kim Pollack |

| **Next Steps:** (Task, Assigned to, Checkpoint Date) | **Owner** | **Due Date** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Theresa will contact Pastor Dave Spencer about possible interest in a community garden in Romulus | Theresa | Next meeting |
| [Insert next step] |  |  |

| **Decisions Made:** (What, Why, Impacts) |
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| 1. [List and describe decision made]
	* [Provide additional description of or information about the decision]
2. [List and describe decision made]
	* [Provide additional description of or information about the decision]
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| **Discussion:** (Items/Knowledge Shared) |
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| Creating Healthy Schools & Communities Grant (Ave)* Rewriting health & wellness policies for schools, businesses, etc.
* 1.5million over 5 years for four districts
* Would replacing disposables with washable dishes at SSCSD be one way to utilize funds?
* Does Complete Streets come under this?
* Can community gardens tie into this?

Presentations: (Ave)* Karel suggested Sue C., owner of Big M to talk about IDA
* Deborah suggested Miguel Melendez, former director of HOPE Project (former grantee of GRHF) to talk about International Plaza (an abandoned space that has been repurposed for community activities & events, a weekly farmer’s & artisan market)
* Ave suggested Sarah Davis of IDA

Sustainability (Karel)* Erica Herman of Heatsmart FLX South, Lodi Town Hall may become a demonstration location
* [gizmogo.com](http://gizmogo.com) is a website that will pay to take old electronics
* Karel wants to know where to recycle batteries.
* Plastic Free July challenge will share education and ideas for reducing plastic usage
* Composting group meets June 28th at STEPS office with Barb Reese presenting.
* Adam Snell’s composting piece was published in FLTimes, he set up composting system at high school.
* Gardeners are meeting monthly; next meeting at Lodi Community Garden July 16, new gardener at LCG.
* Is there Romulus interest in a community garden?

Ongoing* RHPPs: hopefully in person chair yoga soon
* Kristin and a resident are working on a Monarch garden at Lodi Library
* Lawn Signs are being printed and will help identify STEPS projects in 4 towns.
* Digital Signage would be helpful to advertise events in our community
* Before/after photos: Ave suggested an event to collect photos such as a History Harvest, or possibly at Farmers Market or during Day of Service

Upcoming* Rose Riley, mayor of Lodi, is working on a community event in the Lodi Firemen’s Field on August 21.
* Other Side of the Hill film & discussion on July 13 at 6:30pm.
* Next E3 meeting July 26 at 6:30pm
* Risers August 16 at 6:30pm
* STEPS Day of Service October 23

**PARKING LOT**: [Describe any items that may have been deferred for a later discussion]1. [Itemize and describe parking lot topic]
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| **Miscellaneous Items:** |
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| During her recent June visit, Deborah observed that the STEPS communities are still very active and haven’t appeared to slow down during the pandemic.[Itemize and describe any additional miscellaneous items]* [Provide additional details about the miscellaneous items]
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