

Meeting with Whitworth University on the creation of a neighborhood survey

Held: March 4th 2009 at The Porch

Attendees: George Craig, Jenny Mele, Jennifer Hussey, Patrick Van Inwegen, Kelly Cruz, Patricia Matisse, Bonnie Melnnis, Brenda Corbett, Kaye Turner, Kelli Christianson, Krystle Steele, Corey Fereday, Kay Howard, Bobby Enslow

On March 4 2009, members of the planning committee and concerned citizens met with Patrick Van Inwegen, Professor at Whitworth University. The focus of this meeting was to discuss the creation and administration of a survey designed to collect the thoughts and opinions of West Central residents, investors, and business owners.

Led by Professor Van Inwegen and students from his research class, it began with Professor Van Inwegen asking about the background of the neighborhood. Members of the meeting shared that the West Central Neighborhood is a conflux of home owners, renters, non-profits, and business owners. It was also shared that it is the goal of the planning committee to create a plan that will involve all of these unique groups.

Members shared that the survey should seek information from the widest sampling of the population possible so as to gather as many differing opinions possible. One of the most important questions the survey will feature is "where do you see the neighborhood 20 years from now?" There was discussion as to how the survey will be administered and it was noted that conducting the survey in person would garner the best results. Professor Van Inwegen believes that the survey will be ready as early as April and hopes to have something prepared for the planning meeting that will take place March 19th.

When it came to discussion about the content of the survey members of the meeting broke up into smaller groups to discuss some of the questions the survey might contain. When the entire group reconvened the following topics were shared: transportation, crime, parks, making conservation land more appealing, absentee land lords, children, police response, businesses, animal control, and historic preservation.

The larger group also discussed where they would like to see the neighborhood in twenty years. It was shared that they would like planned smart growth with a neighborhood that is safe, walkable, and connected. The group wants to see a restoration of pride that everyone can feel and relate too.

The meeting ended with Professor Van Inwegen stating that he hopes to have the survey started in April.