

# WEST CENTRAL NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING MINUTES

(Meeting held at Native Project at 6:30 p.m.)

## I. Welcome and Introductions

- a. **Attendees:** JoAnn Stewart, Rose Matise, Annette Owen, Melissa Owen, Rhosetta Rhodes, Kelly Cruz, Toni Lodge, George Craig, Kaye Turner, Alec Gonzales, Jen Hussey, Marcus DeWood.

## II. Approval of September Agenda and August Minutes

- a. George moved to approve, Kaye seconded, minutes and agenda approved.

## III. Housekeeping

- a. August Walking Tour: The August walking tour took place near Ide and Monroe, to Ohio and Summit down to Bridge. It was noted that there were garbage piles on Elm and Ohio. Steve Corker was able to attend the walk. Birds on the nesting polls and the walk lasted about two hours. Those who participated thought that it was a nice walk.
- b. One more walk is scheduled on 9/8. The walk will start at Broadway. We will walk Summit and A. The walk will start at 6 PM.
- c.

## IV. Planning Prioritization

The top page holds the elements in priority according to the SWOT please take a look at the pie chart. The number one priority seems to be Social Health. Economic Development and Neighborhoods ties for second, and Leadership Government and Citizenship came in Third. Based on the SWOT analysis we are now prioritized in what we feel is most important. Now we need to do a comparison with a few other points including our survey and then break into groups. Social Health issues appeared as number one on the survey as well. It was discussed that we are prioritizing, not eliminating any elements. It was further added that when we talk to planning and move forward in the process we will be able to say that we used prioritized according to the SWOT, Survey, Assessments, and Walks of the neighborhood. Then we can make better decisions and move forward as we will have met the guidelines.

The Assessment, the group looked at page 15 and the group was reminded that this assessment was prepared 3/28/05. Page 15 begins actual issues and action items for groups. Page 16 has a list of things the city should do. The group took a few minutes to look at both of these pages. It was discussed that cleaning up the neighborhood would promote Economic Development, along with the survey which indicates dissatisfaction with lack of upkeep, garbage, and the neighborhood being unsafe for kids. The walks we have been taking can focus un-walkability, trash, scenery – dilapidated property. When looking at city owned property on the South Hill compared to city owned property in West Central it is noted that the city does not take care of its property in our neighborhood. Dr. DeWood noted that Mayor Verner states that they are unable to clean because they are encumbered by the union. Money that used to be set aside for cleanup is now being taken up by huge city salaries. The question was posed, do South Hill residents clean up their neighborhoods themselves? With an increase in crime: Downtown, Lower South Hill, and West Central. It was advocated that we should try to do two elements at a time and was suggested that neighborhood cleanup take priority within these elements.

Additional Elements to Consider:

Historic District: for businesses in West Central. It was noted that we have but two business buildings on the historic register and that we have more that can be added. It was discussed that tax advantages would be given to business owners and that part of Broadway should be included as well.

Natural Environment: create a wildlife plan and forest plan, involve Friends of the Falls and the Great Gorge Project.

County Courthouse Area Campus: establish the boundaries of the court campus over the next 20 years.

Coordinated Disaster Plan: create a plan to deal with disasters and pandemics.

*Votes for Most Important*

It was decided by the group to have each person vote 4 times on what they feel is most important, below is the results.

Social Health (3)

Economic Development/Centers and Corridors (2)

Leadership, Government, Citizenship (1)

Neighborhoods (3)

This tells us where we need to start with the above categories

a. Committee Assignments

Jen motioned and Alex seconded to form committees for the top two and break into committees to meet for the first time before the next planning meeting, motion passed. Melissa made a motion to add the third group, George seconded, motioned passed.

Leadership: Kelly will be in charge of organizing the Leadership sub-committee.

Economic Development: Rhosetta will organize Economics.

Social Health: Jen will organized Social Health.

It was advised that the group will work with the SWOT and survey and come up with a plan. The sub-committee will write up challenges and decide what needs to be worked on for the group. Rhosetta will send a template for the small groups. The small groups will take a look at the Assessment and extrapolate, then look at the SWOT and then bring back to the full planning group. The chair for each sub-group is responsible for coordination. The organizers will pick a time and place and e-mail George so he can inform the entire group.

V. Good of the Order

- a. The next planning meeting will be 10/1/09 @ 6:30 PM at The Native Project
- b. We spent some time talking about the DeWood's plan for their building.

VI. Adjourn

- a. George moved and Rose seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 8:38 PM.