

West Central Neighborhood Planning Minutes

March 4th, 2010

Meeting Held At Native Project at 6:30pm

I. Welcomes and introductions

Attendees: Kelly Cruz, Jason Wheaton, George Craig, Brenda Corbett, Annette Owen, Robert Shuman, LuAnn DeWood, Peggy McCartney, Lauren Benson, Don Higgins, Toni Lodge, Kay Howard, Dr. Marcus DeWood, Kevin Swartz, Jenny Mele.

II. Approval of March minutes and February agenda

The agenda was amended to do the group exercise together. George moved to approve the agenda and minutes and Brenda seconded the motion. Minutes and Agenda were approved.

III. Housekeeping

Planning Letter: As of right now the planning letter is postponed due to finances. The planning letter will be included with the neighborhood mailing and will be presented at the next communications meeting.

III. Subcommittee Reports

Economic Development: George passed out a paper with several recommendations for Economic Development. Several recommendations fall into Land Use and Zoning which is our next topic of importance. The group looked at several remarkable zoning maps that George laid out. There is a proposal that we re-zone Broadway and Boone for the four corners in order to develop neighborhood retail. Will we consider complete streets? (bike, pedestrian friendly, etc), Walkability audit with possible grants? Can we someone speak to us about Complete Streets? Brenda made a motion to consider to use complete streets, LuAnn seconded, motion passed. We need education and assistance for code violation. Do a media blitz? George wants to create an overlay zone. His proposal is that we draw our boundaries and then we go to the city and ask them to consider a different set of rules, than set for the rest of the city. We have been doing it their way for 50 years and it is not working for our neighborhood. Pre-approved pre-ready designs that are shovel ready, just pay for permits, this would be an economic advantage. Create a tax abatement/deferment to those at risk, also create it for the working poor. We should revisit this as well.

Leadership Government and Citizenship: Met with Heather Trautman concerning a code presentation. Brenda will do a written report about how we can assist code enforcement. Fines will get more expensive, but true hardship will be granted with

waivers. Rental licensing will be forwarded and will be inspected. This will ensure that there is no substandard housing. There should be an ordinance on storage as one cannot board up a building and call it storage. The group was informed that we can tow away vehicles with no titles (Hulk Slip). The committee was also advised that from May 1st to November 1st. no weeds can be above 10 inches. Also a house can only be vacant for two years and if it is sub-standard the city will then demolish it. Walk through effort twice a year to tag houses with garbage. 52% of houses are owned by people who do not live here and they have no pride in the neighborhood. Will code stand the scrutiny or law suitability? (Aesthetic coding) No answer yet.

V. Visions and Action Plans

VI. Land Use Categories

Explanation; By Jason Wheaton: please see handout. Previous infill RTF turned houses side-ways. No design guidelines for single family. We need design guidelines. City planning cannot get a common standard so we get sideways housing. We need to go to the city to demand standards. Low density multi-family is best ie: town houses. Like the Portland design, can we design some houses and work with the WSU architects to set some design standards? We will never have a consensus so is there the possibility of an overlay zone like Coeur d'Alene? With an overlay zone we can set up our own rules and do our own design standards with the kind of product we want. Jason thinks that we can get movement on the city on this. Add to our plan, then we can show examples of poor planning to the city.

VII. Infill Housing as Relates to West Central

Presentation by Jason Wheaton; there is now an infill committee, Jason has been asked to be a part of that as has Rob Brewster (Montvale). This group will be using a lot of tools (like code enforcement), design review, they want to preserve quality of the neighborhood. One of the most important is to support the historical quality, next important preserving alleys. Send message to mayor, code enforcement, code enforcement, code enforcement and preservation of what exists! Also Safety and SPD and education.

Other

Building 816 N. Cannon Building hearing.

Check with the younger people about their vision for the neighborhood!
Please walk around the neighborhood and look at stuff.
RCW Blight law for businesses

VIII. Adjourn: 8:22 PM

