

Initial Neighborhood Task Force Meeting Minutes – June 1, 2014

6:30 pm at Louisville Central Community Centers

Sam Watkins and Scott Love, Co-Leads – welcomes, attendee introductions, run through of agenda

Explanation of Choice Neighborhood grant program, which is replacing the HOPE VI program

Run through of fact sheet, including roles of Neighborhood Task Force

Visioning exercise

- Grant purpose / engage with people who live, work and invest in neighborhood
- Values – personal (not an organization’s values)
 - o Safety
 - o Green space – parks, woods, access to river, go for walk/run, take children along
- Good neighbors – look out for one another
- Cleanliness of community – no trash
- Connectivity – good transportation, streets that connect in all directions
- Old Walnut Street before Urban Renewal
 - o Every block had retail/commercial, Urban Renewal destroyed this,
 - o New services have to go elsewhere now
 - o Neighborhoods used to be self-contained
- Stability
 - o Opportunity for investment
 - o Increasing home ownership as one strategy to increase stability
 - o Investment as tool
- Entertainment – old Russell had more theaters, night life, bowling alleys, restaurants, music
- Trees
- Quality housing (construction, materials, fully insulated)
- Affordability of housing
- Culturally diverse – expanding interest in history of neighborhood
- Social values – be able to walk down the street as a black male and not be discriminated against/unwelcome in own neighborhood
- Good schools/education programs

Goals of Task Force:

- Core values – things that no matter where you live, they don’t change
- Have outcome (of Transformation Plan) something people can embrace personally
- Want to get down to 5 or 6 top priorities – will come back to this at next task force meeting
- Examine scar left on community by Urban Renewal – good starting point to examine what neighborhood lost, lost its “heart”
- Main focus on future and moving forward

Community Engagement Activity:

CARR (Concerned Association of Russell Residents), 10 – 12 members

Ideas/suggestions for meaningful activities that could engage Russell residents in the Transformation Plan planning process?

- Going door-to-door to inform people of the process, many people are/will be nervous about final outcome
- Mail information to every resident – hit every valid address in target areas, lots of work but useful
- 2010 census – hit every door, need to put time in so everyone is spoken with
- Get “mom and pop” businesses and churches involved
- Going to churches and talking about neighborhood issues

Church perspective/concerns:

- Crime and absentee landlords
 - o Many properties being poorly renovated by absentee landlords, property quickly falls back into original state, many houses vacant and ones occupied are renters, so don't care/aren't involved

Kim Sickles chairs on annual Russell festival where Russell Choice Neighborhoods Initiative (CNI) could have a booth

Lisa Thompson – discussion about neighborhood survey, content of both resident and neighborhood surveys

Over-the-Rhine in Cincinnati – CDC bought over 300 vacant and abandoned properties, stabilized them, then marketed them for redevelopment; used historic tax credits

Ideas to reach business owners, young people, senior population, working family leaders?

- Have meeting in evening to give access to those who work
- Most business in Russell are liquor stores
 - o Reach out to them?
 - o Try to limit amount of liquor stores?

Walk through timeline on worksheets, gave more accelerated timeline

Rhae, clarifying goals/responsibilities of task force:

- Task Force is helping to come up with a vision
- Generates idea and strategies that are grounded by data
- Will be presenting existing conditions report to task forces on July 21, described what will be in the report

- Timeline for Transformation Plan
 - o Jan. 16, 2016 for outline
 - o July 16, 2016 for draft of plan to HUD
 - o Jan. 16, 2017 for final plan to HUD
- Implementation grant application - \$30 million, but drop in the bucket for total investment that will be required
- Community engagement – 6 community outreach workers, each will be assigned precinct in neighborhood

Interns? Implementation strategies? How is local philanthropy being engaged? Will we start meeting with potential funders once we know what strategies we want to pursue?

Co-Lead call for task force member commitment, meetings are all public, need to make sure we have a lot of input

Intent for the Russell Transformation Plan to eventually be adopted by Metro Council as the official neighborhood plan.

July 21 – two meetings – all task forces will meet together during the day, community meeting in the evening – Tentatively plans to hold it at LCCC

To-Do for task members until next meeting:

- Think about community engagement possibilities
- Events we can piggy back on
- Have a kiosk, establish a presence

Action Items:

- Sam and Scott will send out possible dates and times for next meeting, want to meet again before July 21st
- LMHA will put together results of all visioning exercises from all four task force meetings
- Everyone will receive meeting minutes