

REVITALIZING NEIGHBORHOODS COMMITTEE – Meeting Minutes 2/16/10

Present: Paul Haan, Pamela Benjamin, Gail Heffner, Chris Thompson, Heather Ibrahim, Christine Helms-Maletic, Russ Lewis, Frank Lynn, Tyler Nickerson, Kathy Woudstra, Deb Eid, and Mike Williams

- 1) Christine offered to act as secretary until Frank joins us.
- 2) Last month's minutes were approved by consent (or lack of dissent).
- 3) Christine suggested that the RNC formally adopt the Neighborhood Indicators, just as we are asking the two pilot neighborhoods (ECA and NOBL) and possibly others in the future to do. Paul thought it would be a good idea for everyone to have a copy of the latest version of the Indicators document in front of them before asking for a formal vote. Paul will ask Carol to send everyone a copy so that we can vote on them next time.

Christine gave a short explanation of the project to date, then Pamela took the floor to explain that ECA has adopted the vision set forth in the document and that it has selected one or two indicators from each section to track. Some of the indicators not selected were felt to be more applicable to business associations than to a neighborhood association, some were felt to be too difficult or time-consuming to track and others were felt to be of less importance than the ones that were selected.

Chris from NOBL said she has been unable to schedule a meeting with the appropriate people to figure out how to move forward with the Indicators, but she's still trying.

Russ thought the Indicators would provide a good platform for encouraging cooperative efforts between business and neighborhood associations, which can sometimes be at odds. Paul reminded the group that it was not necessary to define the geographic area to be measured by the Indicators as those that exist as "neighborhood associations" today. A smaller or larger or overlapping area could be designated.

Tyler asked if ECA was planning to incorporate the selected Indicators into their future strategic planning efforts, and Pamela said they were.

Christine asked the group to think about what the RNC's role would be in regards to this project, and Paul commented that the data collection was where the "heavy lifting" of the project was. Russ pointed out that neighborhood associations tend to wax and wane in terms of organizational capacity and that it would be a good idea to have a place to "warehouse" all data that is collected through the project, no matter who is doing the collecting.

Deb made the suggestion that neighborhoods might want to use the data to challenge the City's current funding formula for distributing CDBG funds.

4. Tyler Nickerson presented the Sustainable Neighborhoods Housing Policy. It is made up of basically five parts:

- Single Family Certifications
- Blighted Property Enforcement
- Changing from a criminal to a civil code
- Improving the Housing Information System
- Establishing a Mayor's Council on Housing and Neighborhood Stability

It would be self sustaining through a strictly enforced fee structure. The group that developed the structure is seeking others to sign on. They will also be taking it to the appropriate officials. Christine suggested that the policy be taken to all neighborhood boards. CNA and GPNA volunteered to be first. (Paul took it to the United Growth Board.)

5. Other:

Frank announced that there will be a Legislative Lunch on Transit, February 22 and a forum on the City Budget February 18.

Paul said he has free equipment which includes carbon monoxide detectors for neighborhood families.

Adjourned at 11:05 AM.