

REVITALIZING NEIGHBORHOODS COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes 11-20-07

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 by Chair, Paul Haan.

Committee Members Present:

Mike Williams, Paul Haan, Cynthia Price, Jill Meyer, John Gussenbauer, Carol Townsend, Kevin Wisselink, Christine Helms-Maletic, Lori Stanton, Frank Lynn

Guests:

Beth Byron, GR Planning Department; Gustavo Rotondaro, Community Research Institute

Minutes from 10-17-07

Kevin moved, supported by Jill, to approve. Motion passed unopposed.

Zoning Update

Carol submitted a report from the Zoning Subcommittee outlining possible topics and process for brochures to be distributed to GR business and neighborhood associations on the new Zoning Code. The subcommittee drafted a time line and list of suggestions for creating brochures and conducting presentations for community groups.

The RNC will also work with the community to identify issues in the new code requiring amendment and to plan workshops with input from neighborhood groups. United Growth has some leftover funding from a Kellogg grant that could be used for printing and office supplies associated with this activity and for acquiring matching grants.

Beth suggested that the RNC could help resolve issues around Zoning for signage and could develop a New Code Users Manual for homeowners and businesses owners.

Economic Development Indicators

Gustavo gave an introduction to the Community Research Institute, a non-profit organization that collates and provides access to information pertinent to community and economic development. They incorporate data from a variety of sources (City departments, GRPD, Census, etc) to develop measures to track over time.

CRI is currently involved in a project to develop an online mapping system that conceptualizes indicators under over-arching themes using input from neighborhood groups. One possibility is to create a State of the Neighborhoods report similar to the State of the Cities one currently available.

The RNC has expressed an interest in having access to data on neighborhood economic indicators. Some possible variables to be included would be locations of businesses, business types, number of employees, spending data, etc. Other groups who might be interested in this data include LISC, Local First and Neighborhood Ventures. Possible indicators include building permits, vacant properties (though getting accurate data for this would be problematic), housing code violations, crime data, spending/revenue per household (would need access to private data sources such as Claritas). Perhaps the newly-published Juvenile Crime Report could be used as a model for an Economic Indicators Report.

The RNC could use its Urban Redevelopment Principles document to develop themes and select indicators to benchmark and compare over time (maybe four or five indicators). One useful item would be a set of indicators that would suggest locations for potential businesses. David Lynch's book *Image of a City* includes a survey that might help establish some indicators.

Next steps for the RNC would be to identify potentially useful data sets and resources (LISC may be able to provide some technical assistance here, and Gustavo has a list of data sets and resources that he will forward to Carol). Some examples to include might be "counter reviews" of building permits, housing affordability, investment in capital improvements by the City, and recycling data (as a measure of civic engagement). The RNC would then have to determine what could/would be done with such a report.

Other

Christine announced that the City Commission adopted a Corridor Improvement District policy and ordinance. Some business groups are set to begin working to establish CIDs within the next year or two.

Meeting adjourned at 10:50 am.