

MEETING MINUTES - Revitalizing Neighborhoods Committee 7/15/08

Present: Frank Lynn, Mike Williams, Paul Haan, Christine Helms-Maletic, Tom Bulten, Jessica Zahn, Holly Zoe, and Carol Townsend.

Paul called the meeting to order shortly after 9 a.m. This is a special meeting of the committee to brainstorm possible indicators for the Ideal Neighborhood.

NEW BUSINESS

Acronyms Brochure

First, Holly passed around the Acronym booklet she has been developing. Carol requested United Growth pay for half of the printing costs, which would be about \$250 for 250 copies. Kent/Extension would pay the other half. They will be distributed to neighborhood and business associations. It was moved and seconded that UG pay half the printing costs. Motion passed. This will be referred to UG's Board.

OLD BUSINESS

Ideal Neighborhood

Carol explained that we've developed our vision for an Ideal Neighborhood in 2030 and now we need to establish how we'll know if we're moving toward that vision. This is where development of indicators fits in. The goal for this meeting is to list all the indicators we can think of for each descriptor with the intent to pare them down to the top, most useful, and most accurate indicators.

BUYING LOCAL AND NEEDED GOODS AND SERVICES

Jessica was the first to report on possible indicators she came up with for the **buying local and needed goods and services** descriptors (I, F and H). After much discussion, here are examples of such indicators:

- 1) 75% of housing units are within a ½ mile walking distance of 7 diverse uses (essential services).
- 2) Majority of neighborhood businesses are locally owned.
- 3) There is a bus route within a ¼ mile of neighborhood residents.

The suggested way to measure these indicators would be to actually count and/or map out the indicator. E.g., the number of essential services in a neighborhood would be counted, and then mapped to see if they were located within a ½ mile of most residents. A baseline for each neighborhood would have to be determined, and then periodic measuring would have to occur.

MIXED-USE BUILDINGS

Russ took I.A. - **Mixed-use buildings** are prevalent in neighborhood commercial areas. One way to measure this is to count the number of multiple story buildings and then see

if the number continues to increase over time. [So, is I.A. a descriptor or an indicator or both?]

INCREASED DENSITY

Carol took the trend of **increased densities**. The RNC has identified the trend of GR's population increasing in the next 20 years, thereby making increased density both necessary and desirable. There are several ways to increase density, per the Master Plan. The Committee added - Redevelopment in Traditional Neighborhoods that increases density from 5 upa to 9.9 upa (which the Master Plan allows). Possible indicators include:

- 1) The number of housing units that exist in TBAs is increasing. (Measurement: Count how many housing units currently exist in a TBA now and then every 3 years count how many units are occupied.)
- 2) The number of permits issued within a TBA for housing in a year.
- 3) Use the U.S. census every 10 years and pay for a 5 year estimate to see if the population has increased within a neighborhood (probably using census tracts).

GENERAL THOUGHTS

Some general observations about indicators were made:

- 1) In order to develop useful indicators, we need to know how we're going to utilize them
- 2) We need to commit to collecting the data necessary for indicators or use already existing data (CRI, Census, etc)
- 3) How neighborhoods are defined will impact the usefulness of an indicator and may result in modifications to chosen indicators

Neighborhoods should be:

- A) centered on business district? B) centered on residential areas?
 - C) defined by neighborhood associations? D) based on census tracts/blocks?
 - E) defined by RNC based on geographical, physical, and social characteristics?
- 4) Indicators must not reflect only characteristics of higher-income neighborhoods because it will be difficult or impossible for lower and middle income neighborhoods to achieve those goals.

Work on the indicators will continue at our next meeting.

NEXT RNC MEETING: Tuesday, August 19, at 9:30 a.m.