

CRHA Redevelopment Committee Meeting Minutes
December 9th, 2009
South First St. Community Center

Present: Joy Johnson, Will Bolton, Anne Pfintra, Stuart Andreason, Melanie Pettit, CoCo Fraiche, Emily Dreyfus, Leonard Perry, Suzanne Morse, Rosalyn Keesee, Paul Vaughan, Randy Bickers, Dave Norris, R. Costa, Cassie Powers, Susan Elliott, Gloria Rockhold, Carla Jones, Margaret Coons, Katie Chamberlain, Emily Laetz, Kathy Galvin, Brandi Cox, Steven Keith, Connie Chang, Jessica DeGeorge, Andrew Pompei, Lauren Boswell, Joanne Tu, Joanne Fariss, Jessie Ray, Alex Gulotta, John Conover, Karen Shepard, Amy Kilroy

Summary of topics/action items discussed:

1. Presentation of final recommendations from Suzanne Morse's class
2. Staff update on current projects –
 - Update on Master Planning Process
 - Review of Draft Plan meetings on December 3rd
 - Schedule for upcoming WRT meetings – December & January
3. Announcements / Other Business –
 - Design exhibit at CCDC for December and January – exhibit runs until January 29th. Students will be invited to present their work over the next two months.

Minutes:

- Minutes of the November 11th meeting were reviewed and approved.
- 1. **Presentation of final recommendations from Suzanne Morse's class** – A majority of the meeting was spent hearing a presentation from Suzanne's students and discussing the next steps for this proposal.

A group of five students gave a presentation on behalf of the class who has been working with CRHA for most of their semester. Students discussed the objectives of their project; what the Neighborhood Resource Model is and where it is used around the country; the results of their survey of existing local resources; and funding opportunities available to pay for this type of center here in Charlottesville.

Two different handouts were presented to the group. One is the Executive Summary of their report and the other is a five-page list of existing Charlottesville resources. Students mentioned that this is not an exclusive list, and that if anyone had suggestions of other agencies to include, they would be willing to update it and re-circulate.

Both the Housing Authority and PHAR received a copy of the students' full report.

Next steps will be to wait and see how these recommendations match up with what we receive from the WRT Master Plan and the Housing Authority Board will choose its direction one it has information from both of these sources.

Comments received from the committee members included:

- Housing Authority wants to get community space designed into each of their neighborhoods. Those spaces will look different based on the size of each neighborhood.

- The idea is to do a “pilot” center in one neighborhood and see if/how well it takes off. If it is successful, the center could be replicated in other neighborhoods.
- These centers need to be staffed so that they can remain open and available for use by residents and/or community members.
- They also need to take advantage of existing spaces when possible – some neighborhoods currently lack any kind of space to bring in community resources. Don’t duplicate whenever possible.
- These centers need to be designed and planned with a community and cultural context to them, not just plopped down into the neighborhood with an expectation that they will work.
- Whether for these centers or any projects in general – residents need to be prepared in advance to receive the information they will get by coming to meetings. It will help them become better decision makers and more participatory.
- The question was asked as to whether these centers needed to be on CRHA land or if they could be centrally located somewhere within the surrounding neighborhood? – Students answered that their research showed them occurring both ways.
- Several committee members thought a good next step would be to have a large Round-table meeting of service providers in order to help with better coordination efforts.
- Everyone was in agreement that service provision can no longer be “business as usual”
- The question was asked as to how City Council can take the lead on lifting people out of poverty and pulling together this round-table meeting – Dave responded that councilors are already having conversations about this same topic and that we should be hearing more information about this from them soon.
- There also needs to be a coordination of missions as well as services
- Next step could also be to do an inventory of the physical spaces available
- Also want to think about having residents work in these centers as well as for Parks and Recreation department.

2. Amy gave a brief update on current projects:

Update on Master Planning Process – Draft Plan was presented during a round of meetings on December 3rd. Plan has been posted to the website for review and comment. All comments received will be forwarded to the consultant team for inclusion and incorporation into the Final Master Plan – next deadline for comments is Friday, December 18th.

Committee members would like to see a greater variety of mixed-income and mixed-use on sites. Board felt the same way and now WRT is running some additional scenarios for us to review. They will be circulated once we receive them.

Additionally, we want to make sure we are not perpetuating the lack of income diversity within our neighborhoods and that we retain the value and control of our land. We asked them to stay within certain parameters for the Bill of Rights and now they are going to see how much room there is within that context for further exploration.

Because of this, dates for scheduling the January round of meetings are on hold temporarily. Staff will bring a couple of different options to the Committee for their selection as soon as we receive them from WRT.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned. Next meeting is **Wednesday, January 13th** at 10:00 am in the South First St. Community Center.