

College/Seminary Focus Area Task Force Meeting Notes for January 17, 2007 Meeting

Focus Area Assets

Ginny Gregory went over the map showing Focus Area assets that had been listed at the previous meeting. It was noted that Nelson Park was mis-identified.

Survey

There was general consensus to use the existing draft of the survey form. The City will mail it out to owners and residents using GIS information. Copies will also be made available for meetings of ORCHiD and for RHA to use with residents of Brewington Oaks. Fred Brechlin volunteered to make the 300 copies needed.

Presentations of plans from organizations within the Focus Area

- ◆ **ORCHiD** has the same boundaries as the Focus Area except for the finger extending north of the railroad to include the Ingersoll site. They already have a strategic plan that calls for improving streets and lighting, and adding hanging baskets and other plantings to the area. They would like to see an internet café in the strip mall on College Avenue, especially if the proposed whitewater park is developed and becomes an Olympic venue. They work extensively with their neighbors, including Haight Village, the Winnebago County Health Department, Haas Towing and Joseph Behr. (Report by Becky Lichty)
- ◆ **Rockford Housing Authority** will complete demolition of the Jane Addams development in 2007 pursuant to approval given by HUD late last year to do so. This includes 84 apartments, 77 of which are still occupied. RHA will start relocation in the next 30 to 60 days with the first 36 apartments. They provide training for those ready to go; have hired a case manager to work with residents on an individual basis; and will keep track of them after they move out. They hope to have most residents relocated by June or July of this year, but also want to minimize the time buildings are vacant. The area south of College Avenue will be done first to allow for new approaches to the Morgan Street bridge. The current plan for the area north of College is to use it as green space. They have met with the Park District to discuss this. They will transition Brewington Oaks back to what it was originally designed for, apartments for elderly and disabled. (Report by Steve Anderson)
- ◆ **Joseph Behr** employs about 150 people at this location; this may go up some but will definitely not go down. The company's home office is here but they also operate in Iowa and Indiana. They will relocate their main entrance to Kishwaukee Street when the street itself is done. This will allow for two lanes in and two lanes out, and will get their trucks off Seminary Street. They have already acquired most of the property they need to do this.

Behr is also working with the Park District and others on the Keith Creek Greenway. As part of this, Nelson Park will be improved and a pathway extended from 10th Avenue Park westward. (Report by Lee Foecking)

Topics for next meeting

There was consensus that the following major topics need to be covered in the plan:

- ◆ Visual image
- ◆ Creation of a neighborhood meeting place

- ◆ Rehabilitation/revitalization of existing homes
- ◆ Infrastructure improvements

Next meeting

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, February 14th at 5:30 PM. When asked about using another location, the members present indicated they would like to continue meeting at 510 Seminary Street.