

**Joint Meeting of the
College/Seminary and HOPE VI Focus Area Task Forces
October 12, 2006**

Task Force members present Ald. Doug Mark, Ald. Victory Bell, Ald. Linda McNeely, Barb Baptista una Freund (RPD), Alan Zais (WHA), Steve Anderson (RHA), Joe Owen and Becky Lichty (ORCHiD), Kerry Knodle (CCS), Sheila Kloster (WCHD), Al Gagliano (Kishwaukee School), Gloria Cudia (RPD), Kathy Ricotta (Habitat for Humanity), Reid Montgomery (City of Rockford)

City staff present Aaron Rucker, Ginny Gregory, Vicki Manson (CD); Dep. Chief Mike Booker and Kim Binder (Police); Heather Beaufls (HS); Patrick Zuroske (DPW); William Rossiter (Fire); Kevin Ciabatti (Building)

Other interested parties Mayor Lawrence Morrissey, Clint Cole (WHA), Catherine Owen (ORCHiD), and Roger Sexton and Maurice Redd (SWIFTT)

NOTE *These notes are not intended to be true minutes in the traditional sense of the word. They are intended to provide a record of what was discussed and decisions made.*

Mayor Morrissey welcomed everyone to the first meeting for both of the task forces – HOPE VI and College/Seminary. He expressed confidence that planning efforts of both groups would result in viable plans for these two Rockford neighborhoods.

Goal of the planning process Following introductions of everyone in attendance, Ginny Gregory (lead staff person for the College/Seminary Task Force) and Aaron Rucker (lead for the HOPE VI Task Force) began a discussion of what the goal of this planning process is and what the City hopes to accomplish through it. Put in its simplest form, the goal is to produce a five-year action plan for each neighborhood that lists a series of goals with specific actions to achieve those goals. Each action should identify who will be responsible for implementing it, when it should be done, an estimate of the cost and a funding source.

Role of Task Force members

- ♦ Provide input throughout the planning process.
- ♦ Determine what information is needed to develop each plan, directing staff to produce the information.
- ♦ Provide data and plans from organizations represented by Task Force members (e.g., the Park District's improvement plans for Washington Park).
- ♦ Combining all of the above plus public input from public meetings to determine goals for each Focus Area, and from those, specific actions to be taken.

Planning process Staff anticipates that the entire process will take six to nine months; the amount of time needed may not be the same for both neighborhoods since there are some significant differences in the two areas. The process will include data collection and analysis, public input through neighborhood meetings and surveys, determination of basic goals for each area, and finally the creation of an implementation plan and schedule.

Public involvement How this will be accomplished differs between the two neighborhoods. The College/Seminary neighborhood has an active neighborhood organization, ORCHiD, which can aid greatly in obtaining input from local residents and owners. The HOPE VI area, on the other hand, does not have a neighborhood group in place. However, the Park District is already preparing to survey neighborhood residents and has allowed the City to add questions to their survey that would aid in this planning process.

Deliverables Part of the packet that everyone picked up at the start of the meeting included the implementation table from the plan for the Mid Town North neighborhood completed in 2003. This, plus a short text summarizing the data used to compile the plan and a brief history of each neighborhood are the final products of the process. Once that is done, the goal would be to have the governing body of each organization represented on the Task Force adopt the plan produced by the Task Force.

DISCUSSION

Suggestions for additions to one or both Task Forces

- ◆ Representatives from Concord Commons and Jane Addams.
- ◆ Dr. Tate of United Faith Baptist Church (250 N Pierpont)
- ◆ Representative of RMTD
- ◆ Lindsay Johnston of Rockford College (already working with ORCHiD)
- ◆ Resident from Concord Commons (RHA to provide contact)
- ◆ Resident from HOPE VI i.e. Ms. Johnson
- ◆ Representative from Winnebago Co Board (Pearl Hawks was suggested)
- ◆ More Hispanic representation
- ◆ Invite NIU (because of connection with Concord Commons) or Joel Cowan
- ◆ Corporate representatives
 - ◆ Joseph Behr (Bill Day or Bill Bremner?) – Becky and/or Joe will check with them
 - ◆ Lowe's (Neil Buck?)
 - ◆ Liebovich
 - ◆ Muller-Pinehurst
 - ◆ Farm & Fleet
 - ◆ Realtors (staff from RAAR's office)

Data requests

- ◆ Do same survey for College/Seminary as for HOPE VI [Staff will check with Joel Cowen at Health Systems Research].
- ◆ Property values/EAV (market value, sales prices)
- ◆ TIF boundaries
- ◆ Crime statistics
- ◆ Information from Human Services on their client base in each neighborhood
- ◆ Add “New construction” to the housing conditions map

Other suggestions

- ◆ There are many elderly in the HOPE VI area who have lived there for a long time. Many of them probably will not answer a written survey, so there needs to be a way to have someone visit them or call them to get their responses. (Park District intends to do this.)
- ◆ Involve youth in the process; Youthbuild participants could be used for door-to-door surveys and other similar tasks. Would also be valuable to let them attend Task Force meetings.
- ◆ Put everything from each Task Force on the City's website. (Staff will get this done.)

Meeting schedule After some discussion, it was decided that at least initially, the two Task Forces will continue to meet together. Once they get into the goal-setting stage, they may separate. However, it was suggested that even then they still meet jointly on a periodic basis.

Next meeting
Thursday, November 9th at 5:30 PM
Park District headquarters (Old Post Office), 401 South Main Street

Questions or suggestions? Call either Ginny Gregory (987-5618) or Aaron Rucker (967-6772).