

CRHA Redevelopment Committee Meeting Minutes
February 10, 2009
South First St. Community Center

Present: John Conover, Randy Bickers, Amy Kilroy, Jason Halbert, Dave Norris, Sarah Malpass, Rosalyn Keesee, Bob Stevens, Edith Good, Alex Gulotta, Peter Loach, Kathy Galvin, Emily Dreyfus, Joy Johnson, Sherri Clarke, Justin Walton, Allyson Davies, Karen Shepard

Summary of topics/action items discussed:

1. Staff update on current projects –
 - RFP – negotiations update
 - Resident outreach on Redevelopment
 - Trips to visit other redeveloped Housing Authorities – Hagerstown, MD
 - Youth Initiative Subcommittee

Recommendations:

- No recommendations were made at this meeting

Minutes:

- Meeting began with a round of introductions of everyone at the table.
- Minutes of the January 13th meeting were reviewed and approved.
- Amy gave a brief update on staff activities:
 1. RFP negotiations update – A drafted letter and contract will be sent to the leading firm before the end of the week. Randy and Allyson will continue negotiations with them to see if we can reach a “final and best offer” incorporating the changes we have suggested. Wrapping up the process is taking a little longer than expected because staff is doing some additional research into their references.
 2. Resident outreach on redevelopment – Monthly redevelopment update meetings continue being held at each of the sites with community centers. The number of residents attending these meetings continues to increase. This list of meetings will start to expand as new meeting venues are arranged. Copies of this month’s newsletter and Redevelopment flyer were made available at the meeting.
 3. Trips to visit other Housing Authorities – Amy made a trip up to the Hagerstown Housing Authority on Friday, February 6th in preparation of the upcoming bus-trip being taken on Wednesday, February 11th. She met with staff and settled on an itinerary for the group meeting. Several points of interest that have been learned about Hagerstown’s redevelopment efforts:
 - 210 units of public housing were demolished and 150 units of public housing were replaced onsite.
 - Very few of the residents who lived in the neighborhood before redevelopment actually returned to the neighborhood after construction was completed.
 - Within the redeveloped neighborhood, there is an integrated mixture of public housing, section 8 housing and non-subsidized rental units. There are also

homeownership units available for low to moderate income families in the neighborhood.

- A 23,000 square foot community center for use by the residents was built immediately across the street from the redeveloped neighborhood. A Head Start program, daycare program and a Boys and Girls Club program have full-time offices located in the community center. Classes for residents are taught at the center and there is a large indoor basketball court/play area in the center.
- With each trip we go on there will be pro and con lessons to be learned about how we want to do our redevelopment project. More details will be available after the trip to Hagerstown.
- The next trip we are looking to take will be to Washington,DC / Alexandria, VA area in the middle to end of March. Notice will be distributed for this trip as early as possible.

4. Youth Initiatives & Redevelopment – Three committee members, Joy Johnson, Justin Walton and Kathy Galvin, have been working on a small Youth Initiatives committee creating ways for our middle-school and high-school youth to get involved with the redevelopment efforts. Several updates were provided about this topic:

- A core group of 6-8 adults have been meeting to develop opportunities for our youth to get involved in redevelopment.
- Charlottesville High School will be conducting a summer Urban Design Institute for interested students, and will incorporate urban design courses into the curriculum beginning in the fall of 2009.
- Our next meeting will be held on February 19th at 4:00 in the South 1st Street Community Center, and youth will be encouraged to join us. This meeting will be used to figure out ways to recruit youth who are interested in participating as well as to explore ways in which we can expand our ‘awareness campaign’ in preparation for our launch event during the schools’ spring break in April.
- Efforts will not be focused solely on youth in the middle schools and high school. Participation will also be sought from youth who are in alternative education programs or who are not in school at this time. All ages are welcome.
- Proposals have been submitted to City Council for financial support of this initiative. Council has had one work-session about the proposals and will vote on them at an upcoming meeting. Will also look to coordinate other community resources to strengthen the program and reduce duplicative efforts.
- Suggestions were made about who/where to arrange media spots to further promote the initiative. These will be further flushed out at the meeting on 02/19.
- Ultimately this core group of adults will act as an advisory group to the youth once they have established their own core group and are up and running.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned. Next meeting is Tuesday, March 10, 2009 at 10:00 am in the South First St. Community Center.