

RECORD OF DISCUSSION

Homebuilding Plan for Treme/Lafitte and Tulane-Gravier

Date: Tuesday September 5 and Wednesday, September 6, 2006

Participants: *Lafitte Residents Council:* Ms. Emelda Paul (President), Leah Green (Past President), Travis Leblanc, Valerie Johnson, Edwina Joseph
Ujamaa: Amy Brown
Providence: Father Michael Jacques, Jim Kelly
Enterprise Homes: Chickie Grayson, Christine Madigan, Ron Wilson
Urban Design Associates: Ray Gindroz
Facilitation: Nicole Swerhun

The purpose of the meeting was to work together with the Lafitte Residents Council to understand:

- the key questions that need to be answered as a part of this project, and
- what aspects of the community they like and don't like (this information will feed directly into the homebuilding plan)

Key questions asked by residents that they would like answers to:

A number of questions were asked by residents, and they would like answers to them. This includes a question as to whether Providence was part of the HUD decision to demolish Lafitte. Jim Kelly, the President of Providence and Father Michael Jacques, the Pastor of St. Peter Claver and the Chair of the Board of Providence, both clearly stated that they were not involved in any way in the decision of HUD to demolish Lafitte. It was only after they heard HUD's public announcement in June 2006 that HUD had decided to demolish Lafitte, that Jim and Father Michael approach HUD to see if a non-profit organization with a faith-based mission could take a lead role in re-building the community.

Other questions residents would like answers to include:

1. When can we come home?
2. Is Lafitte coming down?
3. How did this project come about?
4. Can I get my belongings? Can you help me get in contact with people to arrange getting my belongings?
5. Can you help me with the deposit?
6. Can you help me break my lease?
7. How long have you been planning?
8. Some apartments didn't get that much damage, why can't we come home?
9. There are people at HANO who helped us get our belongings – will their jobs get protected if Lafitte comes down?
10. What is a modular house?

Likes and Dislikes in the Community (see photo of map on page 4)

What we like in the neighbourhood (STRENGTHS)

- Yards (1 yard for 4 units, clotheslines, garden)
- Neighbours were friendly, sitting out and talking with them, enjoying parties, socializing
- Benches in courts where kids could play
- Watch the church van pass on Sundays
- Young kids were out at night and could hear sounds of families (e.g. calling kids in at night)
- Games in the park (including Rose bringing the mattress for kids to do gymnastics on)
- Kids playing basketball and football
- Young men formed band that would practice in the park (brass band)
- Christmas lights (people from city would drive by to see) – had decorating contests for best lights
- Neighbourhood watch in each court
- Integration with surrounding neighbourhoods
- Were neighbourhood stores
- Kids had singing contests
- Made skate-mobiles
- Bike races

Locations:

- Homes in Lafitte
- Sojourner Truth Community Centre
- Trees – keep as many as possible
- Lehman Park #2, including the pool, space to play sports, basketball, need lights on in the park (turned off, community worked to get them put back on, then city turned off again)
- Carver Theatre
- Treme Market (N Claiborne and Orleans)
- Before I10 N Claiborne had shops, banks, tailors, shops – the whole thing was a picnic area
- Meat shop on N Miro
- Dookie Chase
- Circle Foods (N Claiborne and St Bernard)
- Zulu
- Steak house (North Broad and Orleans Ave)
- Church (Dumaine and N Galvez)
- Phyllis Wheatley
- Orange room (on St Anne and N Galvez) – had good hot sausage, bar room
- Church on St Claude and Bayou Road
- Well Baby Clinic (on Orleans by Roman St)
- St. Peter Claver Church (1923 St Phillip)
- Mosque (on N Johnson by Ursulines)
- Bell School (across the street from the mosque)
- Church on St. Anne St (by N Johnson)
- Used to be a hospital (at Roman and Orleans)
- Wicker (between Conti and Bienville/N Prieur and N Johnson)
- St. Ann's Shrine
- Clark High School
- Modular houses (Dumaine and N Derbigny)

Mixed

- Ideal Grocery (like because have good meat, bad because source of alcohol)

What we don't like (WEAKNESSES)

Locations:

- MRV motel (Ursulines and N Prieur)
- Rainbow motel
- TRC motel
- Club Fabulous
- Blighted houses on St. Ann Street (between Roman and N Derbigny)
- Blighted house on Dumaine (in 1800 block)
- Stores and hotels (on Orleans from N Prieur to Roman, on N Prieur from Orleans to Dumaine)
- Brown Derby (N Claiborne and Orleans)
- Corner store (at St. Philip and Roman St)
- Corner store (N Johnson and Governor Nicholls) – diagonal corner is a hot spot for crime and drugs
- Store (on corner of Governor Nicholls and N Claiborne)
- Car wash (on Governor Nicholls and N Claiborne)
- Walls around Louis Armstrong park

Infrastructure:

- Lighting is bad
- Sidewalks are bad
- Drainage is a problem

Contact Information

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Likes and Dislikes in the Treme/Lafitte and Tulane-Gravier Communities

Green dots = Likes

Red dots = Dislikes

