

RECORD OF DISCUSSION

Homebuilding Plan for Treme/Lafitte and Tulane/Gravier

Date Wednesday, July 9, 2008
St. Peter Claver School Cafeteria, 1020 N. Prieur

Next Meeting Wednesday, August 13, 2008
St. Peter Claver School Cafeteria, 1020 N. Prieur
6:00 – 8:00 pm (dinner to be provided)

Participants

Anthony Pendleton	Rozellia McKoy	Vastina Jeanmarie
Rhondalyn Capote	Cynthia Magraff	Shirley Daufauchard
Warren Johnson	Sylvia Norman	Sidney Daufauchard
Alice Jones	Christina Quezergue	Dorothy Hills
Norvin Jones	Lloyd Bell	Carol Thomas
Bertha Lively	Alvin Banks	Terry Carter
Angelina Dorsey	Gertis Wiltz	Pat Carter
Sherri Lawson	Clyde Hudson	Sheila Green
Edwina Joseph	Travis LeBlanc	Elnora Calender
Alanna Green	Emelda Paul	Lachia Rodriquez
Harvey Reed	David Rayford	Sylvia Redmond

Daniel Mathieu, The Micah Project
Sarah McMorris, NOLAC
Emelda Paul

HANO: Tracy Mercadel, Valerie Brown (consultant to HANO)
Case Management: Carol Carter (New Orleans), Dianne Pitts (Baton Rouge)
Providence/Enterprise: Jim Kelly, Tammy Crumpton, Matt Morrin, LaTonya Williams, Caroline Gammill; and summer interns: Rina Thomas, Alice Chamberlain, Abby Bowes

This meeting record was drafted by Caroline Gammill, community staff at Providence. Prior to being finalized, it will be provided in draft to all meeting participants for their review. It reflects the key messages and main points raised at the meeting. It is not intended to represent a verbatim transcript.

The meeting began with an opening prayer, and a review of the agenda by Tammy Crumpton, Director of Resident Services for Providence.

I. HANO Update

Valerie Brown, Consultant to HANO on behalf of rehab units

- **Re-Occupancy of Repaired Units:** It was expected that the first families would move in on Monday, but the demolition disrupted the gas services. The gas lines should be reactivated tomorrow and residents will move in on the 12th. Four buildings are ready for move in with 46 units available. Tenants must move out by January 31, 2009.

Questions and Discussion

Responses, where provided, are in italics.

1. Have the keys been made? *Yes, the only thing that prevented move in was the gas line. The units had to be re-inspected and that was done today.*
2. Did all of the delays take place so that folks could only live there for a short time? *I understand your concern and I apologize for any inconvenience. Unfortunately, we had a situation we could not control and our number one priority is making sure you have a safe unit.*

Valerie Brown: *Families will move in by the 12th. Tracy Mercadel is on his way, questions for HANO may be delayed until he gets here.*

3. Are all of the units full? *After the delays, many families decided not to come back. Now we have more units than we have families who would like to return.*
4. When will we have to move out? *On or before January 31st. A lot of folks are hesitant to move during the holidays.*

Tammy Crumpton: *At Providence/ Enterprise, we understand that this is not something to look forward to. There's been a lot of legislation and events – like the stolen copper and the gas line – we understand that this is frustrating and difficult. Please don't think that we don't care; we're very sensitive to these issues and this is why we want you to have the opportunity to discuss this in the most respectful way. It isn't Providence / Enterprise who is holding up the process.*

5. What happens on January 31st? *HANO will make options available to you. There will still be voucher units, and new units will open. To be fair, we'll have to do another process for all former Lafitte residents.*

Valerie Brown: *Let's not dwell on the setbacks and the problems because there is much to be excited about and look forward to in the new development – that is safe and healthy.*

6. Because of the delays, we're sending everyone back to live in these units for 4 – 5 months. Someone needs to speak on behalf of these tenants and give them an extension to stay there longer. *We can't allow residents to stay past that date because there are deadlines due on the tax credits used to finance these developments. The IRS is very serious and it can't be delayed.*
7. The tenants aren't collecting the taxes. *An extension on the deadline of the tax credits has been asked for. People need to be living in new units by 12/31/10 so we can't give an extension on the temporary units because then we can't build the new units.*
8. Why must these folks move so many times? *No one is being forced to move back. All had the right to decline. All heads of household are entitled to a Tenant Protection Voucher (TPV). As long as demolition is occurring, you have the right to a TPV which is like a Sec. 8 voucher.*
9. When someone moves into the units and that time is over, and they are re-issued a TPV and they'd like to move somewhere else, how well is it working when folks want to take their voucher and move elsewhere? *We'll need to wait for Dwayne to arrive so he can answer that question.*

10. One of my clients in San Antonio got a notification that she has a unit by August. Is that true? Will she really have a unit to move back into? *Some units did have that but we'll need to check what unit that is. Different units have different dates – but some were going to be ready by August and now we have to deal with the gas pipe.*

II. Resident Update

Announcement: Positions are still open on the Residents' Council for those who are interested. Please speak with Valerie if you are interested.

Mr. Alvin Banks read the most recent version of the Covenant. (Please see Covenant sheet). Mr. Banks stressed the need to get more people involved in the process and urged Providence / Enterprise to do more to get former residents to come to the meetings, such as radio advertisements. He explained stations were set up in the room and that the folks would break into smaller groups to discuss any one of the following issues:

- Youth
- Schools
- Safety
- Economic Development

Daniel Mathieu: It's time to move from ideas to action and these discussions will help us get the ideas into motion.

Small Group Reports

Schools

Who to meet: School Board, Superintendent, Mayor

When: September, when school is getting started and can have their full attention.

Issue: More was taught in Texas – we want the teachers to teach more, incentives to bring better teachers, larger rooms, better recreational facilities and after school programs.

Youth

Concerns: We need more community connections, for the community to come out and support itself. We also need more support from the mayor.

Who to meet: Representatives from NORA – more play areas are needed, not the corners where children see negative things.

Issue: Very concerned about the youth.

Jobs/ Businesses

Issue: People are interested in starting new businesses, receiving job training. Would like to put children and grandchildren to work and show them what life is really about and to get the children off the streets so that they can form their own change instead of going out and doing other things.

Daniel Mathieu: I will be in contact with the residents who put their name on the sheet. For the others – it's never too late to get involved!

III. Providence / Enterprise Update

Some Announcements:

- School Planning Meeting tomorrow night – 6:30 pm at the Dryades YMCA. This is a great opportunity to voice your opinion about the future of the schools.
- Millage renewal is up for a vote this weekend: vote for the schools!

Matt Morrin, Enterprise Community Partners

Matt announced that there will be a hearing before the City Planning Commission on August 12th, the time and date is unknown right now. So far, three proposals from large, well-established property management groups have been received. There are not a lot of details yet, but more will come in the next several weeks. Providence and Enterprise look forward to involving Lafitte residents in the selection of the property manager.

Officer Franklin, First District, NOPD

There have not been many problems recently, nothing to update on since the last meeting. On July 18th, there will be a fundraiser for the station.

Jim Kelly, Providence Community Housing

Jim shared plans to invite a NORA representative to the next meeting, based on early comments. Additionally, he stressed that folks who are available to go should attend the school planning meeting at the Dryades YMCA, because it is important not to get shut out of the conversation and draw attention to the need for strong schools in Tremé/Lafitte.

Lastly, he encouraged folks to bring more people to the next meeting and said that it is great to see folks getting involved in a different circle. Plans are underway to move the meeting location to the Sojourner Truth Community Center. The gas and electricity have been switched on and the phones and computers are next. Once that happens, the location will change.

IV. Adjournment

Next Meeting: Wednesday, August 13th, 6 pm

Dinner and Raffle