

RECORD OF DISCUSSION

Homebuilding Plan for Treme/Lafitte and Tulane/Gravier

Date Wednesday, February 11, 2009
Sojourner Truth Community Center, 2200 Lafitte St.

Next Meeting Wednesday, March 11, 2009
Sojourner Truth Community Center, 2200 Lafitte St.
6:00 – 8:00 pm (dinner to be provided)

Participants

Alvin Banks	Mary Johnson	Sarah Marcello
Jessie M. Boyd	Valerie Johnson	Shaun Piele
David Celestin	Warren Johnson	David Rayford
Kyndria Claiborne	Alice Jones	Lachia L. Rodriguez
Patricia Claiborne	Norvin Jones	Gale Sanders
Catherine Fein	Bernice King	Shirley Waters
Warren Gils	Seantell Landry	Mary Watson
Jennie Gorden	Cynthia Magraff	Elizabeth Wells
Javanda Griffin	Margaret Muse	Annell Winfield
Regina Guichard	Tamra Muse	

Sarah McMorris, NOLAC

Jenna Pollock, Tulane Community Health Center

HANO: Eddie Scott

Case Management: Carol Carter, Karen Hebert, Kendra Green

Providence/Enterprise: Tammy Crumpton, Jim Kelly, Matt Morrin, Andreanecia Morris, Caroline Gammill, Cornelius Payne

This meeting record was drafted by Caroline Gammill, 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 review of the agenda and an opening prayer offered by Alvin Banks

I. Development Update

Matt Morrin, Enterprise Homes:

- **Groundbreaking:** The development team is getting closer to breaking ground on the entire site in the near future, particularly on the infrastructure. It is expected happen in March.
- **Feedback on the unit construction and design**, drawn from resident feedback at the 1/14/09 meeting:
 - Carpet: There will be no carpet in the in the units.
 - Handicap Accessible Units: There will only be elevators in the senior building. There will be approximately 50 handicap accessible units, not including the units in the senior building. Ten of the fifty will be fully accessible (with roll in showers) and all of the accessible units will be fully compliant with ADA requirements

- Shelving: A final decision has not been made on the type of shelving that will be in the closets; it will most likely be wire shelving. Wood is more expensive and it is trying to be worked into the budget.
- Color: The units will be painted with neutral colors and white, potentially with some accent colors.
- Lighting: The site will be; the development team does not want there to be parts where it is hard to see where people are. Plans are being made to make sure that the lights won't be easily broken.
- Appliances: Unfortunately, people cannot bring their own appliances. There will be brand new washers, dryers and refrigerators in the units.
- Blinds: They will be basic Venetian blinds, ones that will hold up well.

Questions and Discussion

Responses, where provided, are in italics.

1. Will there be screens on the windows? *We don't know yet. We are trying to make the units as energy efficient as possible and the type of window chosen will make a big difference and it is not possible to have a screen with all types of windows. We understand that people would like screens and will try to have them if it is possible.*
2. How will the trash collection work? *Each unit will have a rolling bin and there will be a specific place for trash collection in the parking area. There will be no large dumpster.*
3. Will there be a play area for the children? *Absolutely. We are building a new street with lots of park area along the street. There will be a playground next to the senior building and additional playground space towards the Claiborne end of the site.*
4. Will there be a gym with a basketball court? *It hasn't been decided yet. We still need to have a discussion about how we will use other spaces.*
5. Will there be a closet in the bedroom? *Every bedroom will have a closet and there will be additional closets throughout the unit.*
6. Will there be Central Air and Heat? *Yes.*
7. Why can't we use our own washers and dryers? *We can't guarantee space for individual appliances and we are bringing energy efficient appliances. The repair of the washers and dryers will be the responsibility of the property manager.*
8. Who will pay the utilities? *Residents will be responsible for paying the electric bill, but not there water bill. Each unit will have an individual meter.*
9. Will the office have a backup generator? *There will be some level of power for the senior building. There will not be any backup generators for the individual units.*
10. What if you can't afford the bill? *That is a real challenge and this is a change from the previous system. We've taken measures to help keep the energy bills as low as possible, but if you think that will be a challenge, it may be something to talk about with a case manager.*
11. Where will the mailboxes be? *On the front of the house. There will be two different arrangements. Some apartments will be like a single family house and will have the mailbox on the front. In the senior building, there will be a set of boxes on the first floor in the lobby.*

II. Sojourner Truth Update

Carol Carter, Catholic Charities:

- **Activities at Sojourner Truth:** All of the Family Stabilization Services (case management) are now run out of this building. Your feedback is very welcome and everyone is encouraged to stop by, visit with the staff here. There are many events held here and lots of information available.

- **Response to Concerns about new development:** Please call any of the case managers to set up an appointment to talk with a case manager who can listen to your concerns and help to find solutions.
- **Publicity:** If you know any former Lafitte residents, in New Orleans or away, please share this information with them

Sondra Davis, Section 3 Coordinator

- **Employment Opportunities:** Ms. Davis is the Section 2 coordinator. Her job is to help former residents get jobs with the contractors and subcontractors who will be working on the redevelopment. One project will be to provide training for those who have not previously worked in construction and the main goal of her work is to help folks prepare for the transition and to benefit from it as much as possible. Other trainings will take place to provide information about how to build safe housing and how to maintain it. Please share this information with friends, relatives, and other former residents (of any of the Big Four).

Pat Green, Certified Vocational Trainer working with Catholic Charities at Sojourner Truth

- **Employment Aid:** Ms. Green is a certified vocational trainer with special experience in finding employment for folks who also receive disability and social security. Anyone who is interested in working can make an appointment with Ms. Green, call Carol Carter to schedule it. She emphasized that people who are receiving disability and social security and want to work do not need to be nervous about losing those benefits – she will work with you to find a job that does not affect those benefits. Ms. Green closed by talking about the wide variety of job opportunities available and her eagerness to help interested former Lafitte residents find employment.

Upcoming Events: More information is available at Sojourner Truth Community Center

- “Healthy Heart” workshop on 2/14/09
- Professional Training Events

Jenna Pollock, Tulane Community Health Center

- **Community Resource Directory:** Copies of the Community Resource directory are available here at Sojourner Truth. The booklet provides information about the many various services offered here in the neighborhood. There is also a number to call to add more information or make corrections.
- **Patient Advisory Council:** The clinic is starting a patient advisory council. If you have been a patient, your feedback and input is welcome!
- **New Clinic at Ruth’s Chris site:** The mayor has made a verbal commitment and the staff is now waiting to get the information in writing.
- **Questions about Healthcare:** Ms. Pollock will be staying thru dinner and is available to answer questions.

Questions and Discussion

Responses, where provided, are in italics.

None.

III. Resident Council Update

Mr. Alvin Banks, Resident Council

- **Recent Meetings:** The Resident Council met on Monday evening and they also had another meeting with the property management staff.
- **Change from HANO:** It is important to spread that word that the buildings will be under private management. Please tell your friends and relatives. If you have a concern about the new development, you won't be able to take it to HANO – they have subcontracted the work to another company. This is a big change and we want to help make sure everyone is ready. The resident council's goal is to make sure everyone is treated fairly. The company that is managing the project is the same that is managing the Desire in the 9th ward. The best thing to do is to bring your neighbors, bring your friends to these meetings so that everyone can talk about and get prepared for these changes together.
- **Feedback to the Resident Council:** Ms. Gail Sanders and Ms. Valerie Johnson are also on the Resident Council. Please bring us your questions and concerns so we can take them to Providence and Interstate, the property managers. So far in the process, Providence has been fair, listening to our concerns and taking them to heart. We will continue to work with them.

Questions and Discussion

Responses, where provided, are in italics.

1. Will there be private security? *Security is a major issue. There will not be private security, we'll be relying on the NOPD. The best security is you – when the NOPD isn't around, staying involved in the neighborhood activity and people looking after one another's children like they did when we came up.*
2. What can be done for the seniors who want to come to the meeting but who don't have transportation to get here? *If people can pitch in and help those who want to come get rides, that is ideal – we have to help those who can't help themselves. Everyone here tonight is here to help each other. There isn't a system in place right now to accommodate folks.*

Information added: There is a group on St. Charles who help the elderly and folks with disabilities get transportation. It is called "Nami" and may be able to help folks get to these meetings. Phone number is 504 896 2345.

IV. Homeownership Update

Andreanecia Morris, Providence Community Housing

- **Homeownership:** The first 10 houses of the 600 that Providence will build are complete! Many more will be built. There will be information about them at every meeting until they are sold and the open house last week was very well attended. Interested people can call Ms. Morris directly for more information at 504 821 7227. It is possible to use your voucher to for payments on a home of your own. If you are not enrolled in Homeownership counseling and would like to be, call Ms. Morris.

Questions and Discussion

Responses, where provided, are in italics.

None.

V. Adjournment

Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 11, 6 pm
Dinner and Raffle