

RECORD OF DISCUSSION

Homebuilding Plan for Treme/Lafitte and Tulane/Gravier

Date 6:00 – 8:00, July 8th, 2009
Sojourner Truth Community Center, 2200 Lafitte St.

Next Meeting 6:00-8:00, August 12th, 2009
Sojourner Truth Community Center, 2200 Lafitte St.

Participants:

Tyra Alexander
Alvin Banks
Lloyd E. Bell
Dariel Celestin
Shirley Daufauchard
Sidney Daufauchard
Ola James

Leslie Johnson
Mary Johnson
Valerie Johnson
Larry Jordan
Bernice King
Travis LeBlanc
Julene Lloyd

Emelda Paul
Gail Pierre
Carl Richardson
Shuane Simon
Beryl Thom

Sojourner Truth Family Supportive Services: Carol Carter, Sombra Davis, D'Ana Smith
Providence/Enterprise: Jim Kelly, Matt Morrin, Andreanecia Morris, Caroline Gammill, Cornelius Payne, Nick Roosevelt

HANO: Eddie Scott

Southeast Louisiana Legal Services: Sarah Marcello

This meeting record was drafted by Nick Roosevelt, 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 by Miss Emelda Paul. Caroline Gammill then introduced Nick Roosevelt, a new staff member at Providence Community Housing who is transitioning into Caroline's position in Special Program Development.

I. Sojourner Truth Update

Sombra Davis and Carol Carter:

- **Suggestion Box:** There is a comment box at the front desk. We want to hear all of your comments, concerns and questions. Also, if you have questions about or things that you would like see take place at upcoming events, let us know and we will try to make sure they are addressed.
- **Summer Camps:** There are currently two summer camps going on at Sojourner Truth, so you will see lots of kids running around. One is run by the JJPL and has 35 kids. The other is run by the Sojourner Truth and has 30 kids.
- **Youth Activities:** Saturday, July the 11th will be a day of planting and gardening for the youth camps, but everyone is invited. We want to schedule more youth activities. D'Ana is working with the National Congress of Black Women to work on scholarship opportunities. Also, we will likely be sending out a survey about afterschool programs and tutorials. We want to hear from you about what kind of programs and tutorials you would like to see for your children, nephews, nieces and

grandchildren. We want to make sure we have youth activities for all the children, even the well behaving ones!

- **Health Survey:** A Tulane intern, Ashley Martin, will be working on administering a health and wellness survey. We want to find out what the community wants and needs in terms of health and wellness.
- **Diabetes Health Fair and BBQ:** July 25th at 11:00. Health care workshop on diabetes and eat HEALTHY BBQ. We would love to hear suggestions about what you want to talk about the health fair. Make sure to put them in the Suggestion Box.
- **Photos:** We hope you've noticed the photos on the walls tonight. They were put up by Emelda and others. We would love for all of you to bring your photos of the past and present to future meetings, so that we can remember the important past and present of Lafitte.
- **Questions/Comments:** Residents were asked if they had any questions or comments and none were raised.

II. Senior Citizens Program Updates

Travis LeBlanc

- Everyone is welcome to participate in our programs. We have all sorts of different programs organized around Wednesdays.
- If you are currently participating or if you know of seniors who might want to participate, please let them know, because we want as many folks as possible to be a part of our community.
- Residents were asked if they had any questions or comments and none were raised.

III. Legal Aid Presentation

Sarah McMorris-Marcello:

- Here on behalf of Southeast Louisiana Legal Services.
- We mostly focus on public housing and voucher issues.
- We have recently been working on issues over at Iberville and we know that there have been some issues with Lafitte residents who are currently at Iberville. We are here to help, so please let us know if you or anyone you know is having trouble with vouchers either at Iberville or elsewhere.
- We are trying hard to make voucher policies simple and uniform
- If you or anyone you know ever receive a notice of eviction, termination or anything else that worries you, please do not hesitate to contact me or my office. We want to help. If your concern is time sensitive, feel free to walk into our office, but try to get there at 8:30am

Southeast Louisiana Legal Services
1010 Common Street
Annex Building, Suite 1400A
New Orleans, LA 70112

Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday
Phone: (504) 529-1000 or 1008
Toll Free: (877) 521-6242
Fax: (504) 529-1009 or 596-2241

- Sarah's number is (504)-529-100 extension 243.
- Her secretary's extension is 223
- No questions were raised to Sarah.

IV. Providence Community Housing & Enterprise Update

Matt Morrin, Enterprise Homes

- We are in the process of scheduling the groundbreaking. It should be in July. When the date is set, there will not be much notice. We'll be sure to put the date in the paper and it here at the center, but there will probably only be a week's notice.
- Many have likely seen trucks out working on the trees and laying fertilizer. Were doing this, so that things can start smoothly and quickly once we break ground.

Jim Kelly, Providence Community Housing

- Things are close to being done. At this point, it is in the hands of the lawyers trading and finalizing documents.
- We want to thank Caroline Gammill for all the work she has done for us over the past two years. Caroline has been a blessing and we are sad to see her go. We wish her the best for law school.
- There was a sheriff's sale on the LIFT property. The mortgage holder on LIFT purchased the property outright, which is good thing, because the title is now clean and can easily be sold. The mortgage holder is in serious conversations with a charter school group, called Achievement First, which is run by Ray Smart. Achievement First already has RSD approval and is hoping to build a new K through 12 school. They have been very successful in New Haven, Connecticut and are working with Mayor Bloomberg in New York City. We think this is pretty exciting news. We are still fighting to get Wheatley up and running, but the status of Wicker is uncertain. Having a top notch charter school in the neighborhood would be another great school option for children in our community. You can find out more about Achievement First at www.achievementfirst.org
- A question was raised about what they will do with the pool and the park. The community definitely wants the pool and the park to stay. *If Achievement First builds the school, they would very likely keep the park and the pool.*

VI. HANO Update

Eddie Scott, HANO

- I am here to take any questions you might have. If I can't answer your question, I'll let you know, but I will also make sure to find the person who can answer it.
- I know many of you are frustrated with some of the delays, but once the groundbreaking is over, things will happen fast. I am really impressed by the special bond that the people here at Lafitte have.
- Please let me know if you have any concerns. I can help you with anything relating to Section 8 or HANO
- No questions or comments were raised

VII. General Comment and Question

- A question was raised about the overgrown grass at Lemann Park #2 and along Galvez. *This grass is part of the LIFT property and Providence is working on getting the owners to cut it.*

VIII. Adjournment

- Door prizes and dinner served

Next Meeting: August 12th, 2009 at Sojourner Truth.