

RECORD OF DISCUSSION

Homebuilding Plan for Treme/Lafitte and Tulane/Gravier

Date 6:00 – 8:00, August 12th, 2009
Sojourner Truth Community Center, 2200 Lafitte St.

Next Meeting 6:00-8:00, September 9th, 2009
Sojourner Truth Community Center, 2200 Lafitte St.

Participants:

Alvin Banks
Shirley Daufauchard
Sidney Daufauchard
Anna Jarvis
Valerie Johnson
Terry Jordan

Travis LeBlanc
Daniel Mathien
Emelda Paul
David Rayford
Harvey Reed
Stella Reese

Carl Richardson
Lachia L. Rodriguez
Lachia S. Rodriguez
Gale Sanders

Sojourner Truth Family Supportive Services: Carol Carter, Sombra Davis Williams, D'Ana Smith

Providence/Enterprise: Jim Kelly, Matt Morrin, Andreanecia Morris, Brenda Richard-Montgomery, Cornelius Payne, Nick Roosevelt

HANO: Angela Hemper

Tulane University Health Clinic: Jenna Pollock

Lagniappe Academies: Julia Takada

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. There was then a moment of silence for Lloyd Bell.

I. Sojourner Truth Update

Sombra Davis Williams:

- **Section 3:** Section 3 provides employment opportunities to the residents of Lafitte, as well as others who qualify as “low-income” by H.U.D.. Section 3 tries to make sure that the opportunities and resources that come from new developments are available to residents. It is not an easy process to sign up for Section 3, but it is worth it and we can help. If contractors working on Lafitte and other sites hire new staff, 30% have to be Section 3. That means a lot of jobs will likely be available soon. If you are interested in applying, please let me know. Also, if you are on the resident mailing list, you should have already received and will receive more information.
- **Newsletter:** Check out our most recent newsletter. There are a couple highlights we want to bring to your attention. The senior meetings have been a lot of fun, as some here can attest to. Please spread the word and bring friends! Also, please come to our next employment workshop. They are collaborative events where not only can someone come if they need assistance getting a job, but everyone can

share their experience and we can all help each other. Our next workshop will focus on job applications. Finally, the 4th annual Katrina anniversary second line is coming up and organizing are looking for a couple of residents from Lafitte to participate and let others know how things are going.

- **Questions/Comments:** Residents were asked if they had any questions or comments and none were raised.

II. Lagniappe Academies

Julia Takada

- Lagniappe Academies is a charter school that plans to build a top-notch K-12 school in the Tremé neighborhood that will be exclusive to children of the Tremé area. Charter schools in New Orleans are normally open enrollment, but we want to build a school the neighborhood children can walk to and that will foster a strong sense of community.
- We are calling the school Lagniappe, because it will provide extra resources for the children and their families that you normally would not receive from a school. We hope to provide many services that children in this neighborhood might not have easy access to. We also will seek to partner with service organizations already in the neighborhood.
- Community input is very important to us. We will create a community advisory council so that neighborhood residents can be actively involved. The school's curriculum will focus on the history of New Orleans and the history of Tremé.
- We will start in the Fall of 2010 with a temporary site (Probably the empty school building at St. Augustine. There will be two Kindergarten classes and two Fifth Grade classes. Each year we will continue to add two K and 5 classes, until we are a full K through 12. If a family has one child in the school, their younger children will have priority to matriculate at Lagniappe, so that all children of the same family can be at our school.
- Our hope is to make the LIFT property our permanent location. It is not clear right now, whether that is a possibility, but I would like to show you a very preliminary design that we had in mind for the LIFT property (design shown). Our focus on the layout of our campus is to create a large amount of shared green space with the Lafitte Greenway, which will be built in the coming years where the railroad tracks are now. This should provide lots of green space for the community and allow us to have a great school campus. We also plan to incorporate a number of community buildings. We hope to get input from neighborhood residents, before we decide what the buildings will be used for.
- A number of questions were raised:
 - Q: Will residents have access to forming the curriculum?
 - A: Not 100% sure. A lot of our curriculum is already mapped out. I will make this recommendation and look into it further.

 - Q: Will school focus on anything? Math and Sciences?
 - A: Our focus is to provide an across the board high quality education.

Q: What about black history?

A: We will absolutely include black history in our curriculum. Both black history in New Orleans and in general.

Q: Will jobs be available to residents of the neighborhood? I think jobs should be offered to people in the neighborhood first.

A: This is a really good point and something we will definitely work on. I'm very glad you mentioned this.

Q: What about funding?

A: The school is funding publicly, but all of the extra services will be funded through money from the Smart Foundation and from scheduled fund raising

Q: Why only K and 5?

A: This is the way Lagniappe thinks we will be able to build a top-notch school. We know that much more than just K and 5 are needed in the neighborhood, but that is the model we think we need to operate under.

Q: With so many blighted schools already in the neighborhood, why should we build a new school?

A: The blighted schools in the neighborhood are under the control of the Recovery School District (RSD). Those schools are beyond our control, but we still believe that Lagniappe will be a great addition to the Tremé area, even if the RSD gets other schools in the area up and running.

Jim Kelly: Our team has been working with the RSD to get Wheatley and Bell back up and running, but the timeline is still very unclear.

III. Tulane Health Clinic

Jenna Pollock:

- I am handing out pamphlets that have information about our clinic and how you, family or friends can access our facilities.
- We are open at Covenant House right now. Next year we will be moving to Broad and Orleans, into the old Ruth's Chris steakhouse.
- We have both an adult clinic and a children's clinic. The children's clinic is free.
- Each month we have a focus and right now it is family rights. We are running a series of events related to this subject
- We are here for the neighborhood!
- No questions were raised to Jenna.

IV. Providence Community Housing & Enterprise Update

Matt Morrin, Enterprise Homes

- We have made a great amount of progress over the past couple of days. The only hold up at this point is the title.
- We know this has been a very long process, but at this point, we are talking about a matter of days.

- We are not sure when the ground breaking ceremony will happen. We want to break ground as soon as possible, so actual work might start before the ceremony. As soon as we know the details of the ceremony, we will spread the word, but it will likely be on short notice.
 - Even though our staff has been working very hard and not everything has been in our control, we take responsibility for the delays. As I'm sure you know, we are very excited about breaking ground.
 - A few comments were made:
 - Comment: It is very frustrating for us, now that we see work being done on some of the other Big 4 sites.
 - Comment: We are very tired of waiting. I have been in Iberville and the conditions are terrible there.
- Jim Kelly: We completely understand your frustrations. We aren't here to make up excuses. We are so close right now, it really seems like a matter of days, but you have every right to be frustrated. We still believe that the new Lafitte will be what's right for this neighborhood. What will be built is what the Lafitte residents want. We are confident that the new Lafitte will be a strong and vibrant community for many many years to come.

V. Health Surveys

- Hopefully you have all had a chance to fill out the health survey that we passed out at the beginning of the meeting. Everyone who has filled out their survey will receive a raffle ticket (everyone had completed the survey and five prizes were raffled).

VI. Adjournment

- Dinner served

Next Meeting: September 9th, 2009 at Sojourner Truth.