

RECORD OF DISCUSSION

Homebuilding Plan for Treme/Lafitte and Tulane/Gravier

Date 6:00 – 8:00, December 9th, 2009
Sojourner Truth Community Center, 2200 Lafitte St.

Next Meeting 6:00-8:00, January 13th, 2009
Sojourner Truth Community Center, 2200 Lafitte St.

Participants:

Tyra Alexander
Alvin Banks
Miss Jessie Boyd
Doretha Bryant
Trenise Bryant
Shirley Daufauchard
Sidney Daufauchard

Ola James
Leslie Johnson
Mary Johnson
Terry Jordan
Bernice King
Bertha Lively
Cynthia Magraff

Emelda Paul
Anthony Pendelton
David Rayford
Carl Richardson
Lachia Rodriguez
Gale Sanders
Beryl Thomas

Sojourner Truth Family Supportive Services: D’Ana Smith
Providence/Enterprise: Matt Morrin, Andreanecia Morris, Cornelius Payne, Nick Roosevelt
Southeast Louisiana Legal Services: Sarah Marcello
Tulane Community Health Center: Gillian Locascio
Micah Project: Daniel Mathieu

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.

I. Sojourner Truth Community Center Updates

D’Ana Smith

- **Newsletter Highlights:** Please take a look at our newsletter. A major highlight is our Holiday Youth Camp, which will help to keep the kids busy during the holiday vacation. There is a \$50 registration fee, but do not let this discourage you from applying. There is some funding available for folks who cannot afford the \$50, especially for former Lafitte residents.
- **Drum Circle:** We have worked with the Tulane Community Health Center to put on evening drum circles. These are a really great way to have some fun, learn about drumming and, maybe most importantly, work out stress at the end of the day.
- **Community Center Holiday Schedule:** Sojourner Truth will be closed for Christmas Eve, Christmas day and the weekend following Christmas day. The Center will also be closed New Year’s Eve and New Year’s Day.
- **Comment:** Miss Paul reflected how there used to be a regular drum circle in Galvez court and how great it would be to get the drum circle going again.

II. Lafitte Redevelopment Update

Matt Morrin, Enterprise

- Glad to be back after missing last month's meeting, while I was on vacation.
- **Re-occupancy:** We haven't forgotten about re-occupancy. We are currently taking the feedback we heard from residents at the meeting two months ago and from the resident's council to draft a clear set of guidelines for re-occupancy. We will be sure to bring that draft to a resident's meeting and go over it before finalizing anything.
- **Oral History Project:** As many of you may remember, we have been working to get an oral history project commissioned to celebrate the people and history of Lafitte. We have worked with Miss Paul and Miss Johnson from the Residents Council on a scope of work for a university or consultant team to do the work. As we select a partner, we are being careful to make sure that they understand how important it is to get the input and feedback of residents throughout the process. We will be sure to give updates.
- **Construction:** You can probably tell from the equipment outside that construction is moving along. No other major updates.
- No questions or comments were raised.

III. Phyllis Wheatley School

Daniel Mathieu, Micah Project

- I'm sure many of you remember that work that many residents and community members did to make building a new school in the neighborhood a high priority. The Phyllis Wheatley school is scheduled to be transformed into a new state-of-the-art school, but that is currently being held up, because some people don't want the building that is there right now to be torn down, because it is historically significant.
- I know that this community deserves a new school and that many of the people in this room have kids or have friends with kids who benefit greatly by having a great school in their neighborhood. I am working with a group that is working to demonstrate the strong wishes of the community to get a brand new school in the neighborhood as soon as possible.
- If you are interested in helping out, please let me know.
- No questions or comments were raised.

IV. Tulane Community Health Center Updates

Gillian Locascio

- Other than the drum circles, which I really do hope you all can make, I don't have any major updates
- If you have any questions about the Health Center or the events that we put on, please let me know

V. Southeast Louisiana Legal Services

Sarah Marcello

- As per usual, just want to make sure everyone knows about the free legal services we provide. If you have any legal questions, especially ones related to housing, please come and talk to me afterwards and do not hesitate to call our offices at (504)-529-1000 or me at (504)-274-0443
- Finally, just want to encourage all of you to take full advantage of the offer of Providence/Enterprise to give feedback on re-occupancy guidelines. Even more so, it's important that you start working with the folks at the Sojourner Truth Community Center if you think you might have any problems qualifying for re-occupancy.

VI. Adjournment

- Door prizes and dinner served

Next Meeting: January 13th, 2009 at Sojourner Truth.