

RECORD OF DISCUSSION

Homebuilding Plan for Tremé/Lafitte and Tulane/Gravier

Date 6:00-8:00, October 20, 2010
Sojourner Truth Neighborhood Center, 2200 Lafitte St.

Next Meeting 6:00-8:00, October 27, 2010
Sojourner Truth Neighborhood Center, 2200 Lafitte St.

Participants:

Tyra Alexander
Alvin Banks
Valerie Brown
Paulette Clay
Marthe Duplessis
Clyde Hudson

Leslie Johnson
Mary Johnson
Diana LeBlanc
Marion LeBlanc
Bessie Nogess
Emelda Paul

Beryl Thomas
Chrtistina Quezergue
Carl Richardson
Monica Wells
Natascha Williams

Sojourner Truth Neighborhood Center: Carol Carter, Jessica Olivier, Emelda Paul, D'Ana Smith, Sombra Williams, Kara Watson, Claudette Austin

Providence/Enterprise: Matt Morrin, Andreanecia Morris, Jim Kelly

Interstate Realty Management: Michelle Matthews

HANO: Angela Harper, Maxie Birch, Valerie Brown

This meeting record was drafted by Maggie Tishman, 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.

I. Opening prayer

- Led by Emelda Paul

II. Recap of construction

Matt Morrin:

- The buildings that being that are currently being built between Rocheblave and Galvez, are blocks 1-3. Though these blocks will eventually hold 213 units, only 134 of these will be completed during the phase I (the current phase). Of these 134, all will be affordable rental, either public housing or project-based Section 8.
- In total, there will be 517 units onsite. 376 will be affordable rental and the rest of them will be some form of affordable homeownership or market-rate rental.
- There are another 192 affordable rental units that are planned in the surrounding neighborhood for the first phase.

III. Introduction/Purpose

Carol Carter:

- Thank you so much to the residents for participating in these community meetings.

- Last meeting, the speakers gave an overview of the HOPE VI application that HANO is applying for in conjunction with Providence and Enterprise. Tonight is about Community and Supportive Services.
- CSS stands to gain more funding as a result of the HOPE VI grant but will continue regardless of whether Lafitte gets the grant. We hope to continue to improve CSS with or without the grant.

IV. Overview of Community Supportive Services

Claudette Austin

- Wealth development specialist
- Provides information about employment and resources.
- Has literature on GED program
- Assists individuals with resumes, cover letters
- Has contacts with several employers who give STNC information about available positions
- Has secured employment for individuals at Harrah's Casino, the Racetrack, and Community Coffee, to name just a few locations
- Holds a session twice a month on Mondays for anyone to join in on
- Leads an apprenticeship program
- Teaches a MoneyWise financial literacy training every Wednesday, where residents can learn about saving, bankruptcy, and predatory lending. Everyone is welcome to attend. It's a two-hour session, but residents are free to just drop in for one, pick up the materials, and leave if they want.
- STNC will have a computer training soon as well.
- If residents need any information, they should call Claudette. There is also information at the front desk about the MoneyWise schedule and other services.

Angela Harper:

- From HANO community & supportive services (CSS).
- HOPE VI would allow for GED, economic opportunity, after-school, healthcare, substance abuse assistance, and mental health awareness programs all to be based on the Faubourg Lafitte site.
- Angela's job is to monitor CSS and make sure that everyone is complying with HUD's regulations. She submits a quarterly report to HUD.
- Much of the CSS that Catholic Charities already provides will stay the same. It will simply have more funding, if Lafitte is awarded the HOPE VI grant.
- If residents have needs that are not currently being attended to, they should speak to their caseworker and whatever they needs can be implemented.

Kara Watson & D'Ana Smith:

- Kara Watson, D'Ana Smith, and Kendra Green are all service coordinators at Sojourner Truth
- Family stabilization services, information and referrals for basic living assistance (food, clothes, stable housing).
- Service coordinators also assist residents with reoccupancy
- If residents have an unpaid balance with HANO, service coordinators can help them get those resolved.

- If residents need help with housing, or if they have problems with health, utility assistance, transportation, service coordinators can help directly or refer residents to one of their partnerships in the community.
- Residents should call Sojourner Truth and ask for a service coordinator. After they set an appointment, they should come in and do a needs assessment. From there, service coordinators will match them with appropriate services and resources.

V. Section 3 Employment and Business Development

Sombra Williams:

- Section 3 Coordinator for the Lafitte development
- If they have not already done so, all residents should pick up the Section 3 Economic Opportunity info sheet.
- Section 3 is part of the Housing Act of 1968 that legislates “economic inclusion” so that economic opportunities would be provided to the people impacted by development. It requires that 30% of new hires in the development come from the Section 3 pool of candidates.
- Examples of Section 3 jobs include construction, clerical work, property management, security, and lawnkeeping.
- The first step is for residents to fill out an intake form, and Sombra will do prescreening. After that, residents should make sure that the information on their form is up to date. Registered Section 3 participants will not automatically be awarded a job but will get preference during hiring. Whether they get the job depends on what skills they have and what kinds of jobs are available.
- Sombra makes sure contractors and subcontractors know which of their Section 3 eligible workers are looking for certain kinds of jobs.
- STNC holds at least three information sessions every month, which go into detail about Section 3, economic opportunities, and which jobs are currently available.
- The contractors have not yet met the 30% requirement, so they are currently looking for Section 3 eligible workers.
- There are also economic opportunities that are out there for contractors. If residents know Section 3 eligible workers who are interesting in *contracting*, as opposed to employment, Maxi Birch from HANO can help you. She also has information for business owners.
- For residents that do not already have a business but are interesting in starting one, Sombra can refer you to people who will help you start your business from the ground up.

Maxie Birch:

- Want to introduce residents to HANO’s DBE (Disadvantaged Business Enterprise) program.
- Residents can go to www.hano.org, and click on “Doing Business with HANO.”
- The DBE application is very easy to fill out. It just requires a birth certificate, driver’s license, proof of majority of ownership of a business, and a license (for business owners). When residents turn in this application along with all the required document, they will be in HANO’s directory with their qualifications listed for 90 days. HANO will also send you letter asking you to apply with one of the seven certifying locations.
- As business owners can qualify for Section 3 contracts whether *they or their employees* have very low income.
- there are forms that say what jobs are open at the moment.
- Question: Can you give an idea what kind of contracts people have? Answer; Grasscutting contracts are one example that make hundreds of thousands of dollars each year. Once you reach \$1 million, you are no longer considered within the Section 3 bracket.

VI. Youth and senior programs

Jessica Olivier:

- Program coordinator

Youth programs:

- Youth programs (for kids ages 7 to 14) include different cultural and recreational options. Youth programs are year-round and do not require tuition.
- Sojourner Truth youth ensemble (for 1st through 5th graders) teaches kids about performance and community theater, led by teaching artist, **Arthur Bishop/ Ted Bishop:?**. If anyone happens to know someone with experience in costume, set design, theater—or interest in learning those skills—they should refer them to Jessica.
- Sojourner Truth is also planning a summer camp and we're planning for next summer, we've had them the past 2 summers. Low or no cost. Always looking toward building youth programs so if you have suggestions of what you'd like to see, give me a call. If you have behavioral problem with any kids that you know, let us know and you can talk to us or one of our case managers.

Senior programs:

- Sojourner Truth has a senior citizen day club Monday through Thursday 11 am to 3 pm, senior 55 and over. 40 seniors involved at this point. Daily exercise lunch, arts & crafts, sewing, field trips, bingo.
- Evening exercise classes Mon-Thurs, free to community members, geared toward seniors but anyone can come. Licensed instructor who will push you.

Other programs:

- Monthly health awareness workshops with TUCHC and Covenant House, like diabetes, obesity etc.
- Behavioral, mental, and physical health referrals if you need any of that.
- New state of the art computer lab.
- From time to time, we have resource fairs.

VII. Other CSS

Carol Carter:

- STNC will have bicycles soon, thanks to a grant from the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy. Once the Greenway is finished, residents can sign out the bikes and ride along the Greenway. Sojourner Truth will have lawn furniture will be out on the patio as well.
- STNC wants the residents' input on what the center should be.
- STNC has been trying to get space for a children's library. They currently have a small one but would like to expand further.
- STNC just got a Mac lab and Smart Board for multimedia projects, donated by Capital One.
- Maybe STNC can do reading groups, or schedule gatherings for the Saints and the Hornets games.

Matt Morrin:

- Providence and Enterprise have been waiting to make sure that they check all the boxes on the HOPE VI application, but they plan to do a Lafitte oral history project soon. It will include

physical artifacts, stories, drawings, photographs, and interviews. When the project is done, it will likely go on display in STNC.

VIII. Adjournment

- Dinner served and meeting adjourned.
- Raffle was drawn for residents who have completed survey.

IX. Important dates

Next HOPE VI meetings:

- Wednesday, October 27, at 6 pm
- Wednesday, November 10, at 11:30 am