

RECORD OF DISCUSSION

Working Together in Treme/Lafitte and Tulane/Gravier

Date Wednesday, June 14, 2007
Ujima Building, 1019 N. Prieur

Participants See accompanying Excel Spreadsheet with names and organizations

Purpose The purpose of the meeting was to meet with a small group of stakeholders to keep each other updated on rebuilding and recovery activities underway in the area, and to find ways to coordinate/collaborate.

Introductions Each participant at the meeting provided a brief synopsis of their work in the Treme/Lafitte and/or Tulane/Gravier and/or Greater New Orleans communities. Many highlighted opportunities to collaborate around specific projects. A synopsis of each participant's introduction is provided here. Following up on a suggestion from a participant, Providence plans to post links to each of these organizations on the Providence website.

Ray Nichols, Prestley High School of Architecture and Goodwill Industries (and a long list of previous work in the New Orleans and Treme community). Ray is looking for opportunities to collaborate on proposal(s) and grant application(s) for New Orleans. The biggest opportunity seeks up to 25% of \$63 million for rebuilding in New Orleans. Ray is also involved in training people in home construction. The project is having problems identifying house construction activities that can be used for training. If anyone has any suggestions, please contact Ray.

Laura Paul is a consultant attending the meeting with Ray.

Hal Brown is working primarily in housing and education. He serves on a number of boards, including the Downtown Neighborhood Improvement Association, the Horizon Initiative, the School to Careers Program, New Orleans College Prep (a new charter high school for Central City), and the Preservation Resource Center. He's very interested in identifying opportunities to collaborate and to work cooperatively in the area.

Daniel Samuels works with Friends of the Lafitte Corridor. Their vision for the corridor is to make sure it is dedicated for public use. He sees the Lafitte community as pioneers in helping create a vision for the corridor in this area, including the community center. He sees the success of the greenway deepened when it has the support of the neighbors.

Kelita Pete works with Family Resources of New Orleans. She works with a program that helps people purchase a home for the first time. They have a lease to purchase program, and help people work on resolving credit issues and other steps that can help people own their own home. She was born and raised in

New Orleans, and would like to see more young professionals back in the city. There needs to be more outreach to youngsters who grew up here, and who are right now taking their skills, knowledge and tax dollars to other places.

Charissa Williams works with the New Orleans Police & Justice Foundation and works to provide resources to the community.

Eugene Oppman owns the Carver Theater – which is a work in progress. He's interested in creating an organization that connects businesses in the area and focuses on economic development.

Nader Mohyuddin and Michael Koher are student interns with Providence. Michael is working on the Providence Community Fair to be held on August 11, 2007, and indicated that there were many organizations at the meeting that might be interested in setting up an information table at the Fair. If your organization is interested, please contact Michael at mks16@duke.edu or 504 821 7222.

Amita Toprari works with the Louisiana Public Health Institute (LPHI). In addition to public health services, LPHI also addresses infrastructure issues connected to health (which is potential link to the homebuilding work Providence and others are working on in Treme).

Vaughn Flauria runs the Newcourt Business Assistance Center, which has just received support from the Blue Moon Foundation. The Center has funds available to provide technical assistance and potentially direct financial support to small businesses. She is keen to start satellite centers across the city, and is considering making them industry-specific. If anyone is interested in receiving this support, please contact Vaughn at vrfauria@yahoo.com or 504 208 1700.

Michael Valentino is a hotel owner and operator from the French Quarter, and also owner and operator of Basin Street Station. He's interested in seeing the Station be a center for culture, business, tourism, and education. He's been involved in trying to advance a number of initiatives, from a private sector perspective, including the redevelopment of Iberville, improvements to Armstrong Park, a renaissance on Rampart, etc.

Lisa Amoss works with the Faubourg St. John Neighborhood Association and working on a Broad Street commercial revitalization project. She's been working to pull together the neighborhoods that line Broad Street. Their vision is of Broad as a place where diverse communities come together. She has a Steering Committee with representatives from a number of neighborhoods. A plan for initial development focuses on a number of nodes along Broad, including Tulane and Broad, Lafitte and Broad, and Bayou Road and Broad. Their idea is to pull together the whole length of the street with signage, and they're also applying for Main St. status.

Tony Brual is with the Police and Justice Foundation. They're working with a federal grant from the Department of Justice to create better socio-economic conditions and therefore decrease crime. They know that the solution is not to arrest our way out of the problem. As a result, they focus on the positive steps

that can be taken to support education, employment, and health initiatives in the community – which lead to decreased crime. They do all their work collaboratively, and are attending this meeting because they are interested in working with all of the participants.

Kenneth Bibbins is with Odyssey House. Odyssey runs a number of different programs, including Katrina Aid Today, a medical clinic, and a number of others. He has a team of 33 case managers that go into the community. They also have funds for rental deposits so residents have something to work with to get started.

Stacy Koch works with Covenant House as well as the Treme Renewal Project. Covenant House is the only open intake shelter for youth in the city. They also provide a range of services, including job training, medical services, psychiatric services, permanent supportive housing and transitional housing. Their medical work is led by Tulane students, and they've served 20,000 visits since the hurricane. They also do outreach work with adult agencies to put people in touch with housing opportunities. She noted that Covenant House also works with adults since they believe that to have healthy kids you need healthy communities. The Treme Renewal Project is to remodel/rebuild homes. They're also working to bring homeowners back into Treme. Right now they're serving 80-100 families, and targeting 750 homeowners that live in Treme.

Mtumishi St. Julian works with the Finance Authority of New Orleans. He's working on a program that would enable pre-Katrina homeowners to more easily use supports available from a \$40 million bond issue. They are in negotiations with the Louisiana Recovery Association, following up on decision from December of last year to dedicate \$28 million to a workforce housing program that could help people come home to neighborhoods like Treme. It has been very challenging to access the funds. There are also opportunities for homeowners to receive down payment assistance.

Tammy Crumpton works with Providence as Director of Resident Services, and that includes hosting monthly meetings with former Lafitte residents living in New Orleans. Last night over 50 residents were in the same meeting room sharing their perspectives on their current and future housing priorities. Case management services are currently being offered to former Lafitte residents in New Orleans, Houston, and Baton Rouge.

Brenda Richard-Montgomery and **Andreanecia Morris** are working with the Providence team to acquire properties for development. They are hoping to work collaboratively with other organizations to complete a survey of each property in the Treme and Tulane/Gravier communities to determine the current use, future potential use, and it's potential for future housing development.

Nadine Jarmon, Vice President of Community Development at Providence announced that she will be moving on to a new position with the Road Home Corporation where she will be Executive Director. The program will work to secure and maintain properties transferred to it by grant recipients of the Road Home Program. The Road Home Corporation is anticipating acquisition of up to 20,000 properties in parishes affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Jim Kelly provided an update on recent activities from Providence. He shared his belief that the SHPO process could be completed in the next 30 days, focusing on the heritage preservation requirements/opportunities on the Lafitte site. He reiterated the principles that Providence has been following since day 1, including a commitment for 1-to-1 replacement of subsidized units, the right to return, and \$2.5 million for support services to residents. He indicated that there are 14-16 different basic designs for the redeveloped housing, and that residents were most interested in seeing singles and doubles designed in the architecture of Treme. The redevelopment will bring the street grid back to Lafitte, and will include a 100 unit seniors building at Lafitte and Galvez. Providence is advocating for a phased approach that would see 100-300 existing Lafitte units repaired now, with the remaining units demolished and redeveloped. Providence is also hoping that legislation currently being drafted will address some of the lawsuit issues. Also the St. Anne's apartments on Galvez and Ursulines will be finished by August 15th and will welcome back 42 seniors.

Discussion Question: Is Providence able to share the list of properties in the area? Brenda: We're in the process of building a web-based database, and people will be able to visit the website to review the data. We're very close to being completed, and will let you know when the website link when it's up and running. *Note added after the meeting: This project is being led by the Greater New Orleans Housing Alliance, a new group of non-profit housing developers. For more information contact Andreanecia Morris at Providence (amorris@providencech.org or 504 821 7222).*

Question: What are the next steps from this group? Is there an ongoing opportunity to stay connected/collaborate? Tony: The Weed & Seed model has four components, including law enforcement; community policing; prevention, intervention, and treatment; and neighborhood restoration. We're very interested in developing a strategy for Treme that addresses each of these 4 areas, and would like to help continue to keep different organizations connected.

Next Steps

1. Nicole to send draft minutes, including sign in sheet, to all participants.
2. Tony to get in touch with all participants regarding a next meeting.
3. Providence to create a spot on their website to post a list of organizations working in Treme and Tulane/Gravier, including a brief description of their activities as well as a web link (if available). Any participants interested in having their organization listed should send some brief description text and weblink to Nicole at nicole@swerhun.com and she will work with the Providence team to get the information online.