

RECORD OF DISCUSSION

Homebuilding Plan for Treme/Lafitte and Tulane/Gravier

Date Wednesday, April 8 2009
Sojourner Truth Community Center, 2200 Lafitte St.

Next Meeting Wednesday, May 13, 2009
Sojourner Truth Community Center, 2200 Lafitte St.
6:00 – 8:00 pm (dinner to be provided)

Participants

Arianne Burnett
Fay Burnett
Frances Burnett
Gertha Burnett
Juan Cash
Terry Carter
Shirley Daufauchard
Sidney Daufauchard
Angelina Dorsey
Javonda Griffin
Bertha Lively

Ola James
Vastine Jeanmarie
Valerie Johnson
Warren Johnson
Beverly Jones
Bernice King
Cynthia Mcgraff
Margaret Muse
Tamra Muse
Sharon Pevrt
Carl Richardson

Ruby Regis
Rochelle Roberts
Lachia L. Rodriguez
Gale Sanders
Cortina Smith
Beryl Thomas
Evelyn Wallace
Joni Washington
Christina Wheaton

Sarah McMorris, NOLAC

HANO:

Eddie Scott

Case Management:

Carol Carter

Providence/Enterprise:

Tammy Crumpton, Jim Kelly, Matt Morrin, Andreanecia Morris, Caroline Gammill, Cornelius Payne

This meeting record was drafted by Caroline Gammill, 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 review of the agenda and an opening prayer offered by Emelda Paul

I. Resident Council Update

Ms. Gale Sanders, Lafitte Resident Council

Ms. Valerie Johnson, Lafitte Resident Council:

- **More Resident Participation:** The Council is active and meeting, but there are many opportunities for everyone to be more involved. Members of the Resident Council are at Sojourner Truth on Wednesdays and would like to hear from everyone.
- **Input Needed for Future Activities:** Recent discussions have focused on activities for the youth and suggestions for youth activities, or activities for others, are most welcome. Before Katrina, activities included suppers, bingo games, Halloween parties; all of these can be done again in addition to new events.
- **Senior Bingo:** Last month's senior bingo was a success. The next date has not yet been set, but it will most likely be during the afternoon.

Questions and Discussion

None.

II. Sojourner Truth Update

Carol Carter, CHSS Project Manager:

- **Health and Wellness Programs:** Once per month, the center has hosted a Health and Wellness event. Past topics included 'Love your Heart' and 'Bodies in Motion;' this month's topic is Asthma. Ms. Carter asked for feedback about these forums and wanted to know what would make them more accessible, such as a different time or transportation assistance.
- **Summer Program:** This summer, there will be four weeks of summer camp with different themes. If anyone is interested but not getting the informational flyers, please let a staff member know.
- **Microfinance Training:** GoodWork Network will be hosting a Microfinance training in May. The training will include assistance with writing a Business plan, marketing and financial statement. They will also offer \$2000 in small business grants. If you are interested, please RSVP on this sheet or with Lesley.
- **New Staff:** Please welcome Rebecca Simon, newest staff member at Sojourner Truth.

III. HANO Update

Eddie Scott, Director of Client Services

- **Contact Information:** Mr. Scott can be reached at 504 560 6080
- **NORD Summer Camp:** NORD is trying to set up an extra four weeks of summer camp at Sojourner Truth.
- **Job1 Program:** The city is running a program for all people ages 14 – 24 who are looking for summer employment. Especially for those over 18, this program will provide real work experience. Encourage your children, nieces, nephews and cousins to attend and sign up. They should bring all of the documentation listed on the flyer (available at the entrance) with them, otherwise they will not be able to complete the application.
- **Support:** Mr. Scott also offered support to the meeting participants, noting that many services exist and are there to be taken advantage of. He acknowledged that sometimes it is difficult to connect with these programs and service providers, but he highlighted that the staff at Sojourner Truth was well-equipped and some of the best in the business to help out with any questions or concerns people may have. He urged folks to get involved with the center and to get involved with their futures by taking advantage of the job training programs and the job seeking assistance. He also noted that he is always impressed with the dedication and involvement of the Lafitte residents: turnout at these meetings is among the highest he's seen and it speaks very highly of the commitment of people and the future of Lafitte.

Questions and Discussion

1. Are there specific programs that you know of for the disabled? Or those in the middle age range (not youth, not seniors)? *There is the Louisiana Rehabilitation Center on Canal Street. It is possible to work when on disability, called the "Take it to Work" program. At the center, they can assist you with finding a job that accommodates your disability and may even be able to help with transportation.*

IV. Development Update

Matt Morrin, Enterprise Homes

- **Groundbreaking:** Mr. Morrin reported that the team would have liked to be under construction by this point but the Providence-Enterprise team is close to signing the agreement with HANO and getting the bulldozers out there soon.

Questions and Discussion

1. Will there be any handicapped-accessible apartments? *There will be at least fifty fully accessible units in addition to the 100 units in the senior building, all of which will be serviceable by elevator and can be made fully accessible.*
2. What are the bedroom sizes of the accessible units? *There will be 1,2, and 3 bedrooms with ramps and enough room to move a wheelchair around properly. In the first set, there will be at least 15 – 20.*
3. If I am currently on a Sec. 8 voucher, can I come back to Lafitte? *If you took a Section 8 and moved out of the temporary units on Claiborne Ave., you are still eligible to come back to Lafitte.*
4. Will the name 'Lafitte' be changed? *No one has made a decision to do that yet. It is not Providence's or Enterprise's decision to do that. We want to work with the resident council and you all. We've got a lot of time if you want to talk about it or come to us with suggestions. (Decision made to put is on the agenda for a future meeting. The Resident Council will develop a structure for the discussion.)*
5. I have a nice apartment although it has holes in the floor and I would like them cleared up. Who should I call? *Call HANO for a special inspection and make sure you are there when the inspector comes.*

Sarah McMorris, New Orleans Legal Assistance: Lately, the NOLAC office is seeing a lot of problems with the lowering of prices for different bedroom sizes. Ms. Morris asked people who have had these problems to visit the office or to call her directly. If it is an emergency, be sure to leave a message saying so. She also encouraged residents to document interaction with the Housing Authority in order to provide themselves with the best protection. Her number is 529 1000 ext 243. The main number for HANO is 870 3300; 670 3329 is answered more often.

Andreanecia Morris, Providence Community Housing

- **Homeownership:** Providence still has homes for sale if you are interested in becoming a homeowner. Please feel free to call me directly for more information at the number on the flyer (504 821 7227). It is possible to use your voucher to for payments on a home of your own. The main criteria for the program include: holding a job for at least one year, participating in the Section 8 program for at least one year and earning at least \$11,000/year. It takes a good deal of time and effort, but it is possible.

Tammy Crumpton, Oral History Project

- **Oral History of Lafitte:** Providence will hire someone to lead this project but the project will truly be a product of the residents and will speak to the legacy of Lafitte. During future meetings, there will be break out session to discuss visions of what the final product will be. Ms. Crumpton mentioned that the team would like to incorporate any artifacts or other mementos that residents would like to share. Interviews will also be conducted and more in-depth conversations will take place at future resident meetings.

V. Adjournment

Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 13, 6 pm
Sojourner Truth Community Center
Dinner and Raffle