

RECORD OF DISCUSSION

Homebuilding Plan for Tremé/Lafitte and Tulane/Gravier

Date 6:00-8:00, January 12, 2010
Sojourner Truth Neighborhood Center, 2200 Lafitte St.

Next Meeting 6:00-8:00, February 9, 2010
Sojourner Truth Neighborhood Center, 2200 Lafitte St.

Participants:

George Arceneaux
Alvin Banks
Doretha Bryant
Trenise Bryant
Keith Dalmas
C. Gabor
Leslie Johnson
Mary Johnson

Warren Johnson
Terry Jordan
Diana LeBlanc
Marion LeBlanc
Catherine Lewis
Odessia Lewis
Johnny Madison
Emelda Paul

Christina Quezergue
Debbie Robinson
Lachia Rodriguez
Janice Sandifer
Beryl Thomas
Michael Wells
Natascha Wilkinson
Josey Willis

Sojourner Truth Neighborhood Center: Carol Carter, Emelda Paul, Rebekah Simon
Providence/Enterprise: Matt Morrin, Andreanecia Morris, Maggie Tishman
Interstate Realty Management: Michelle Matthews
Tulane Community Health Center: Dana Keren, Chodie Gabor

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. Re-occupancy & Resident Property Management Responsibilities

Matt Morrin & Michelle Matthew:

- Residents will move into, or at least sign leases for, approximately the first 20-30 units next week.
- Providence/Enterprise have started to finish road and infrastructure on blocks 5 through 8, on the other side of Galvez.
- Ready to start the construction on the next housing units in the area in the next few weeks.
- The finished project will be mostly former Lafitte residents and a few non-former residents. The first phase will be entirely former residents.
- Approved applicants have been notified. They have contributed in their down payments and first month pro-rated rent.
- Residents will not get their relocation checks right when they sign their leases. HANO has documentation requirements that you must complete before they write issue a check.

Residents probably will not get their relocation checks until after they have already moved in. They probably will not be able to put their relocation money toward their down payment.

- Resident's relocation benefit will be calculated based on what size unit they qualify for. A one-bedroom will get \$500, a two-bedroom will get \$700, a three-bedroom will get \$900, a four-bedroom will get \$1100. Former residents that live out of town, as well as disabled residents will get additional relocation money from HANO.
- Question: What kind of information do you need ready? Answers: There is a form in the move-in packet that lists the requirements. Residents will need to document their portion of the rent, the deposit, and other similar information.
- Once residents are told that they are approved, residents should make sure they give 30 days' notice to their current landlords.
- Resident handbooks will be in by Monday. Residents can call or come into the office and pick up their copy.
- Question: When can former residents who qualify for a one-bedroom unit come and put their application in? Answer: The next set of one-bedrooms will be about a year from now. Again, former residents will get priority. Residents can submit an application whenever they want.
- Question: Will non-former residents be mixed in with former residents? Answer: For these first 134 units, when a unit is finished, only if no Lafitte residents meet that family-size, will it go to a non-former Lafitte. We will never move a non-former Lafitte family into a unit when there is a Lafitte resident that wants to move in.
- Interstate is trying to get as many former residents as possible to come back. Interstate will send out 3 letters to former residents, in addition to phone calls. Eventually Interstate might say that they were unable to reach a particular resident, but only after they have tried multiple times to reach them.
- There is no application fee for Lafitte, even if other public housing projects do. The other public housing projects have different management companies so Lafitte will not necessarily do exactly what they do.
- Question: What will happen with the old buildings? Answer: Total Community Action is renovating two of them into a headstart center. The third building will be a clubhouse and management office. No residential units will go into the historic buildings.
- Question: One residents only qualifies for a two bedroom right now but qualify for a three-bedroom when her turns 8 years old in June. Will she have to go back on the waitlist to get into a three-bedroom unit? Answer: No. If a three-bedroom is available when she is, she can simply move in. Question: Will she get another relocation check? Answer: Probably not, but Eddie Scott from HANO will have to answer that question officially.
- Question: One resident's mother is the head of household. If something happens to her mother and the resident becomes the head of household, will they evict them? Her income is over the income limit. Answer: No. The child would get the unit according to the Housing Choice Vouchers rules. She can be counted as her mother's caretaker, and not have her income counted as part of her mother's income. She would just have to check off that she is her mother's live-in aide. She will likely need a doctor's note to show that her mother needs 24-hour care.

- Question: Where can the children play on the site? Answer: The City is building the Lafitte Greenway. There will be a lot of amenities for kids on there but that is still a few years away. Jessica coordinates activities for children on Saturdays.

III. Tulane Community Health Center

Dana Keren & Chodie Gabor:

- Clinic is currently located at 611 N Rampart. TUCHC has been leasing space from Covenant House. Covenant House works exclusively with youth, but TUCHC works with adults.
- TUCHC offers an array of primary care services, including pap smears as well as screenings for diabetes and hypertension. Patients will see the same doctor every time they come in.
- The mobile medical clinic will be at the Autozone at Orleans Ave and Broad St on Wednesdays and Thursdays. They will see the first person at 8:30 am and the last at 3:30 pm. They will be taking walkins.
- TUCHC wants the clinic to be community-centric, we want to hear what you guys want/need in terms of services
- The cost is calculated on a sliding-scale. Pro-rated according to your income. TUCHC will help patients fill out paperwork for all different kinds of subsidized healthcare (NOCI, SNAP, etc.) 85% of patients qualify for some sort of assistance.
- There is a Medicaid waiver program for folks whose income is too high for Medicaid. Patients with up to up to 120% of the poverty line will qualify.
- TUCHC will work with everyone to try to figure out payment. They try very hard not to turn anyone away.
- Patients do need an appointment to come into Covenant House to get paperwork filled out. However, if it looks like a patient qualifies, the doctors at Covenant House will see them then and there and they can make an appointment to come back and fill out the application.
- Question: Will there be gardens? Answer: Enterprise is committed to making community gardens. They will likely be directly next to STNC.

IV. NEWCITY Neighborhood Partnership

Maggie Tishman:

- NEWCITY is a coalition of stakeholders involved in development projects around the Lafitte.
- NEWCITY invites Lafitte residents to attend to learn about the development projects going on and to input their own thoughts.
- NEWCITY meetings monthly.
- The next meeting will be Friday, January 21, 11:30 am to 1 pm, at Sojourner Truth Neighborhood Center.
- Feel free to show up or RSVP to maggie@newcitypartnership.org.

V. Sojourner Truth Neighborhood Center Updates

Emelda Paul:

- Sojourner Truth seniors exercise and have dinner together. On Wednesdays, they play bingo.
- On December 16, the seniors went to see the Hornets.
- Once a week the seniors have someone speak about health. One program was called “How to love your heart”; another was on nutrition and diabetes.
- Question: Do you have to be formally a part of the group to go on the trips? Answer: Members can invite guests, but they would prefer people to sign up and become part of the organization.
- Question: When the seniors are going places, do they notify people? Answer: Yes. Ms. Dulcie Scott is the coordinator and Ms. Paul is the assistant coordinator. Ms. Scott calls every single senior whenever there is an activity.

VI. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned and dinner served.

IX. Important dates

- Next meeting: Wednesday, February 9, 2011, at 6 pm
- Thursday, February 22nd, at 7 pm, there will be a community meeting at St Peter Claver to talk about Wheatley as well as other neighborhood issues.