

4 June 2008

WEEKLY MEETING OF NWQ STUDY GROUP

Attending from the Study Group: Bob Pinkerton, Harriett Goode, John Gasden, Al Hefner, Dwayne Smalley, Pete Palmer

Not attending: James Bellew, Evan Thompson, Donna Alley

Attending from the public: Mayor Keyserling, Dick Morehead, Collin Davidson, Steve Greenberger, and Michael Burgess.

Key Points Were:

- Al reported that 20% of the NWQ consists of vacant lots. This does not include property owned by the city or county. This also does not include the 20 buildings that are unoccupied, non-contributing, and recommended for demolition.
- These lots cry out for appropriately sized (form base perhaps) work force housing – for example for police, firemen, school teachers, etcetera.
- The area also cries out for an Urban Design Center – which would offer form base and engineering counsel in accordance with the Beaufort character. Such a center would be a complement to the HRB and should also offer financial and other construction/repair counsel.
- The questionnaire is being honed to focus on non-intrusive questions about the history of the structure, family members who may have built and/or lived in the structure, any remodeling that has been done and repair that may be needed. It also includes questions about inhabitant views on their neighborhood. And the possible loan of photographs of the home and/or the occupants in past years.
 - Lots of discussion about how best to introduce this information seeking effort to the community.
 - Questions about where the information will or should go and what will be done with it. HBF would seem to be the logical repository since that organization already has considerable information on all the contributing buildings in the NWQ. “With conditions” on the use of the information held considerable appeal.
 - Agreement that there should be a pilot effort made – covering perhaps 5 to 8 homes – within the four block area that HBF has been honing in on.

- The Mayor will meet with Dwayne Smalley, Michael Burgess and Henrietta Goode to work up a plan for a meeting to explain what is going on to residents of the NWQ and other interested citizens.
- There is consensus that there is an imperative to schedule follow up work within the NWQ so that the middle August report to City Council is not the end of the process.

Humbly Submitted by Pete Palmer