

Notes from July 23, 2009 Northwest Quadrant Study Committee

Attending: Palmer, Gadson, Bellew, Pinkerton, Hefner, Smalley, Goode

Public: Alley, Davidson, Weidner, Greenberger, Honl, Morehead, Lewis

Gadson and Smalley gave updates on the first organizational meeting of the newly formed Northwest Quadrant Neighborhood Association which was held on Wednesday evening, July 22, 2009, in the Greene Street Gym. Approximately 60 attended. It was agreed by motion that provisional officers will be elected for a period of six months in order to facilitate organization of the association. Dwayne Smalley and Henrietta Goode did an excellent job organizing this gathering.

Goode: We will meet again on August 19 when we will present a slate of temporary officers.

Palmer informed the committee that he had met with Councilman Sutton this week for an exchange of ideas. The idea was shared that what this all comes down to is a house by house, case by case approach.

Smalley mentioned that Faye Bostick at 1203 Prince Street is interested in talking with Bellew.

Morehead asked how the interviews were progressing and what are the responses telling us?

Smalley stated that it depends on who you are interviewing. The responses vary – seniors main concern is maintaining the status quo. Others simply say that they need help.

Gadson reminded the group that we all need to understand what the neighborhood really needs from their perspective. Some can afford to pay, even a little, while others can not afford to pay anything. It is a case by case – no one size fits all in the community.

Bellew: We need some entity to coordinate grants instead of lots of people doing their own thing.

Hefner: We need to be clear about our expectations.

Morehead: We should partner with TCL, promote trades majors that could get on the job training working on houses in the NWQ.

Hefner: HBF approached TCL months ago and we have not heard anything from them.

Palmer: Please provide input to the outline that I e-mailed this week.

Bellew: I should have a complete report this coming week after I meet with the folks who have been recommended and have agreed to meet with me. I would like to hire someone in the NWQ for a training program to become a loan officer. This person could be someone the neighborhood goes to for assistance, guidance through the process.

Palmer: I remind all that our next public neighborhood meeting will be August 5. We need to be thinking of a meeting place.

Palmer: Krueger sent a message he is getting valuable feedback from young architects. We should mention this effort is ongoing when we report to Council. Everyone on the committee must be on board with what we present to Council.

Hefner: We have to see if the neighborhood wants the same things.

Palmer: Naomi Lewis has been working on data sheets. He passed out one for review.

Morehead: We must move slowly. Present recommendations to Council and provide a process to follow.

Gadson: Charleston is having issues with form based codes. I plan to talk with Cynthia Jenkins of the Foundation if possible about their concerns. I have been reading more about form based codes and seem to be coming around to what is called a hybrid form of code that would include our design principles and guidelines. We must make certain that any new codes includes our principles, guidelines and the recent update to the City's Preservation Plan.

Hefner: It seems everyone has a different idea about form based codes.

Notes taken by Donna Alley