

**Notes from NWQ Study Committee**  
**June 18, 2009**

Attending: Palmer, Bellew, Gadson, Smalley, Goode, Weidner, Krueger, Davidson, Lewis, Keyserling

Guest: Inez Neal 1207 Greene Street

Gadson reported on the radio interview as a positive experience.

Keyserling suggested that someone draft an article for the Gullah Sentinel and he was sure they would print it.

Krueger said that he is trying to get a copy of an interview that was conducted a few years ago by Habitat and Operation Good Neighbor.

Goode said that she could contact Kim Statler and get a copy.

Smalley presented a revised questionnaire. He has recruited Tiffany Grayson from Greene Street to help with interviews. He has determined after doing several interviews this past weekend that it is necessary to have a two person team, one to interview and one to photograph, etc.

Keyserling asked if any old photos were shared.

Smalley said that no one seemed to have photos. They would say that someone else in the family had them if there were any at all. This is a very important part of the process. We should have scanning capability on-site if possible to scan as many photos as we can.

Keyserling said that his brother could help with restoring any old ones as a gift for those who participate and share old photos.

Keyserling introduced Inez Neal.

Neal said she read about the meeting in the Gazette and wanted to come to see what it was all about.

Keyserling suggested that Smalley interview Ms. Neal.

Smalley explained the committee and its goals to Ms. Neal and then began the interview:

The interview was very personal and informative.

Keyserling restated that the committee has been asked to make recommendations to Council about how to improve the NWQ.

Smalley agreed and stated that in interviewing residents he has determined that folks don't seem to have answers to their problems and issues with their houses. There is a need for education so that they can see the possibilities. They all seem to agree something needs to be done, but they don't know what.

Weidner stated that he is participating in a clean up in Savannah this weekend and it would be helpful to organize one in the NWQ as a gesture of good faith.

Goode stated that Operation Good Neighbor had done this years ago, but the City stopped it for some reason. It was very successful. People got to know one another.

Goode asked if someone could demolish their own house instead of having the City do it and place a lien on the property.

Keyserling stated that once demolition is approved, it is possible for individuals to apply for the demolition permit, but there are certain requirements that must be met for public safety. Perhaps we need to look for ways to make this process better.

Palmer presented graphics from HBF regarding redevelopment of the block bounded by Wilmington, Washington, Greene and Harrington. It seems that the graphics show opportunities for property owners to redevelop their property to the highest potential.

Palmer asked if the committee is still supportive of the design center and CDC for this study area? It was the consensus of the group that all are in favor of these entities.

Keyserling asked if anyone has been working with architects to get models for new construction.

Krueger volunteered to approach recent graduates from Clemson who live in the area to tackle this project He asked for guidelines and was directed by Alley to the City's Planning web site for the Northwest Quadrant Design Principles.

Gadson asked if Goode had scheduled a room for the public meeting at the Boys and Girls Club? He had announced during the radio interview that a meeting will be forthcoming.

Goode said that she would work on that and get back with a date soon as possible.

Notes taken by Donna Alley