

Neighborhood Task Ford, 2/9/16 Meeting Notes

Exciting news – CNI Action Grant application was submitted!

Sam Watkins: Holding the public presentation of the Sustainable Design Assessment Team (SDAT) study until after the meeting with Mayor next week. There will be a press conference afterwards to share with LCCC's partners.

Attendees were given a 4pg synopsis that was pulled out of the SDAT study and the group reviewed it.

-Part of the Transformation Plan vision is to enhance the arts and cultural district; we need to do some work between 6th - 9th Streets to help naturally connect Russell to the river front and downtown. (We need to check with HUD about including strategies in our Transformation Plan that fall outside the boundaries of Russell.) Enhance the arts and cultural elements and destinations between 6th - 18th streets to help with the reconnection piece. The CNI follow-up design workshop will discuss proposals around this.

-RiverCity Bank Building – LCCC has met with that bank entity to discuss helping them improve the building (talk with HUD on whether this is something to include in the Russell TP). They were receptive to the idea, recognized it is a historical building and they participated in the 3-day SDAT charrette. Not sure if the bank is the owner of the building. They will have a follow up conversation with them soon.

-Kentucky Center for African American Heritage (KCAAH) is a key component and also very involved with CNI activities; KCAAH and LCCC to schedule a meeting to discuss goals and partnering without duplicating services. Christy McCravy (KCAAH Board Chair) was present and spoke about their new board and how it would be helpful to do a presentation to orient them on the Russell CNI Transformation Plan. Discussion: Obstacles to opening up the KCAAH building entrance to Muhammad Ali Blvd. Plymouth Community Center is moving to the Center – Markham French. The Board is in the process of finishing plans for the whole campus over the next few months. The fence was designed this way (to enclose the lawn area) due to the traveling exhibits and insurance concerns. The fenced in area off Muhammad Ali was originally intended as an outdoor amphitheater, not for entrance into the KCAAH. Entrance was always planned on the parking lot side of the building.

New Directions Housing Corporation – purchase of property next to Russell Apartments may be for mixed-use purpose which can also compliment KCAAH and LCCC and connecting the neighborhood.

Also the Quinn Chapel could be an asset that might be coming on-line in the future

-Incorporate community-like signage orientating you to neighborhood, putting up historic markers, etc. This could tie into the self-guided tour as well

-Fund for the Arts just released a new Public Art Master Plan; Do research/hunt up the 2009 Louisville Public Arts Master Plan and KY Arts Council. Who could lead the Russell Arts Commission piece?
Gretchen – there is an Arts Advocacy group starting up and going after state funding.

-Discussion on the improvements needed to 9th St. (i.e. remove berms, 2-way streets, wider sidewalks)

Kathleen – generally, nearly everything discussed today is already included in our draft Transformation Plan outline, just not spelled out in this detail. Group discussed the need to review the Vision for this task force, as submitted in the outline. We will update the outline with everything we hear. Per Sarah, there were also additions suggested for the outline at last Neighborhood Task Force meeting. We will try to put it all together in the outline and have you review it. Another question that came up at last meeting: what is the overall Vision for Transformation Plan? Handout from EJP presentation shows:

The 4 pillars of our vision:

1. Center for Arts and culture (past, present, future)
2. Neighborhood (quality places to live, work, play)
3. Connected place with connected people (physical reconstructions, broadband, wifi, neighborhood organizations and associations to bring people together)
4. Great place to grow and thrive (education, services, parks, amenities)

Distributed HUD's outline/guidance for what should be included in the TP, we need to discuss with HUD how they want this written, appears they may want to change the format to goal-focused compared to how we have it compartmentalized now. A sample of a goal-oriented outline was distributed; we will get more feedback this month during our next conference call with HUD.

Handout on the selection process section of our CNI Action Plan grant application. HUD directives said **not** to list the actual Action Activities we are proposing – they want us to describe the process we will use to select the Activities. Our steps: We will meet as a group (Coordinating Committee and Task Forces) to come up with comprehensive list of what do to with the money, we will make sure they fit in the list of HUD eligible activities and that we do not have other resources to use for that work (i.e. LMHA, city, etc.), there will be a community event for residents to be educated on what the options/proposals are, and then they will vote on what they want. Votes tallied and determine the final outcome. We then send an Action Plan to HUD, they have final say (including veto and redirection), then we have approximately 12 months to complete the work.

Sam - Discussion on the Vision Themes

Kevin Fields – Would like to see economic development/transformation as more of a main vision because it effects all the pillars identified, needs to be on the forefront of the vision. Russell has economic challenges that the vision needs to be aimed at; use economic development as a vehicle for neighborhood transformation and means for Russell's residents. Vision has to be based on economics. Each pillar has the economic piece, would like to see this at the top of the list. Kathleen asked Kevin to create a small working group of people to come up with a clear vision they feel represents the goals. Haven Harrington volunteered to assist.

Safety, Health and Education could be more explicit – the group will also consider these in their discussion. They will work on a draft to be submitted by 2/19. Kathleen will send Kevin the slide from EJP presentation and work from our early exercise on visioning.

Scott Love – Conclusion

Kathleen – would like to meet with Co-leads (individually and together) to discuss timeline and planning over the next few months, and to prioritize the goals.

Kevin mentioned how Rhae said that HUD judges application by non-federal leverage (4 to 1); it weighs heavily - 40 points goes to leverage. (NOTE: The NOFA for FY2014 had 25 leverage related points of the total 198 points). The group needs to be intentional about identifying that leverage. Kathleen – the leverage topic gets very complicated, detailed and must be spread out over a certain timeframe; it's very important, we need to spell out where we have resources, where we will use resources, and how we will obtain additional resources. We could also lose points or valuable opportunities if we don't apply for grants and resources that could help us. Looking at One West and others to help. Meeting with Kentucky Housing Corporation on Thursday to talk about low-income housing tax credits, which is another big piece.

Next Community Conversation idea on Crime and Safety – Kathleen has contacted Major Brown about her availability. Asked members to discuss who they would like to be present and let's start looking at our schedules.

Conclusion of Meeting