

Minutes

Great Indy Neighborhoods Initiative Steering Committee Meeting MIBOR January 24, 2007 7:30-9:00 AM

In Attendance: Michelle Christopher, ICND; Tom Darling, Ivy Tech State College; Brienne Delaney, MIBOR; Jan Diggins, Citizens Gas; Roland Dorson, Greater Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce; Greg Fennig, IPL; David Forsell, KIB; Andy Frazier, City of Indianapolis; Lena Hackett, Community Solutions; John Hall, HUD; Guy Hayes, Central Indiana United Way; Lamont Hulse, Bridges to Success; Diane Jackson, MLK Center; Mark Jakubovie, resident; Beth Leeson, Annie E. Casey; Tim Martin, Indianapolis Police Department; Kumar Menon, City of Indianapolis Public Works Dept.; Jim Muholland, resident; Maury Plambeck, City of Indianapolis DMD; Ryan Poor, Ice Miller; Chris Pryor, MIBOR; Cheryl Reed, Reed Right Communications; Lyman Rhodes, Tara Seeley, CICF; Scott Truex, Ball State; Mark McAlveavey, INCR; Anne-Marie Predovich, INRC; Sara Vanslambrook, LISC.

I. Call to Order & Approval of Minutes

Steering Committee co-chair John Hall opened the meeting and welcomed Committee members. Jan Diggins motioned to approve the minutes and Ryan Poor seconded.

II. Presentation by Crooked Creek

Sara introduced Turae Dabney, volunteer chair of the GINI efforts in Crooked Creek. Turae gave an update on the GINI process and presented two guests from Mercy Hospital out of Denver. Their local initiative is named LINCC – Let’s Improve the Neighborhoods of Crooked Creek. Maggie Lewis is the new GINI staff member. An outreach plan has been submitted to LISC and, at the moment, Crooked Creek is hosting ongoing meetings with residents, community leaders, and groups. A Steering Committee has been formed with 22 members, thus far. A “community rendezvous” is set for February 10th at the Indianapolis Museum of Art. The event will explain the GINI project and allow everyone to be on the same page moving forward. The event will include a discussion on Quality of Life topics such as sense of place, beautification, housing, public safety, and other projects. Alicia Chadwick, executive director of the convening organization, said their website is up and running. The biggest obstacle Crooked Creek is facing is pulling all groups and community ties together. Communicating the “community rendezvous” has been through recruiting individuals and by word of mouth. A database of neighborhood contacts has been created that includes local newspapers, churches, and businesses, as well as residents and other interested individuals. Alicia noted the impact of St. Vincent on the neighborhood has been positive. St. Vincent donated office space and is a major funding source for the neighborhood.

III. Neighborhood Updates

Sara provided an update on the six neighborhoods and their progress. All neighborhoods have hired staff: three part-time and three full-time. Five of the six staff are from the neighborhood in which they work and several are enrolled in training with INRC. There will be monthly roundtables with all the staff for further training and sharing of lessons learned.

- **Near Westside:** Developed an advisory board and are in process of identifying neighborhood leaders. Will work with IUPUI students on gathering data. Next meeting set for February 20th.
- **Near Eastside:** The Taskforce meets regularly. The NESCO conference hosted more than 100 people to talk about the Near Eastside. Sara and Joe presented on GINI and resources available

to the neighborhood. They are in the process of hiring an intern and their next meeting will take place on the last Tuesday in February.

- **Binford (BRAG):** Currently has a Board of Directors as their advisory group, but we are encouraging them to identify other community members to join. The new Farmers Market will open in June. Graduate students from IUPUI will also gather data and conduct survey research with the neighborhood. Their kickoff event will take place on February 22nd.
- **Southeast:** A neighborhood meeting took place this past November. Feedback from the meeting narrowed the neighborhood's goals and direction. They are working to identify next steps to continue outreach efforts and build on previous planning efforts.
- **West Indianapolis:** Developed a Steering Committee whose next meeting is set for February 9th. They are working to identify next steps to continue outreach efforts and build on previous planning efforts.

Each of the neighborhoods are in the process of developing an asset inventory, identifying and engaging neighborhood leaders, and working on accomplishing their outreach plans. The City will be providing TIF and HOTIF information to each of the neighborhoods to help them determine how these tools might be useful.

IV. Working Group Updates

- **Engagement** – Ryan Poor gave an update on the working group. The purpose of the Engagement Initiative is to look beyond the six selected neighborhoods and to engage all in the process. The first step is to reintegrate other neighborhoods by meeting one-on-one with them. Anne-Marie commented that they have arranged meetings to talk with and identify next steps with the four neighborhoods that made GINI presentations but were not selected. The next step is to meet with those neighborhoods that initially applied (additional seven). The next Engagement Working Group meeting will be a brainstorming discussion on the mini-grant program. Determining the structure and process for this program will be largely up to the working group. Possibilities include matching requirements and a “donors choose” approach. All are invited to participate at the next working group meeting on January 31st.
- **Demonstration** – Jan Diggins reported on the status of the Demonstration Working Group. The last meeting was on January 10th. An update on the Latino Outreach was discussed. The current process is collecting city-wide and neighborhood resources and contacts on how to engage the Latino Community. Meetings with these leaders will take place shortly to develop a list of available resources. There will be a follow-up meeting with the Latino Pastors, originally gathered by the Mayor's Office. Crooked Creek gave a presentation to the working group. The total amount for the Early Action Grants is \$80,000 for the current calendar year. A maximum of \$5,000 is granted to each project. The guidelines are posted on the GINI website. Three projects have been approved:
 - **Southeast** – neighborhood meeting
 - **West Indianapolis** – phase I of IPS pocket park
 - **Binford (BRAG)** – training and marketing for Farmers Market
- **Communications**
Cheryl Reed provided an update on the Communications Working Group. A copy of the Communications Plan was given to all Steering Committee members. The purpose of the plan is to communicate the overall initiatives of GINI. LISC and INRC, in conjunction with the neighborhoods, are the face of GINI for the media. The goal of the Working Group is to hold one positive event a month in each neighborhood, plus those beyond the selected six. The first neighborhood event will take place in Crooked Creek in February as a way to thank the funders. The idea of these monthly events is to support GINI and keep neighborhoods as a priority with the media. It was suggested that GINI provide media training to the community builders. LISC and

INRC will reach out and promote the neighborhoods as well as connect to the appropriate/key spokespeople in the neighborhoods.

V. Other Business

- Ryan Poor informed Committee members that Yvonne Shaheen has stepped down from her co-chair position. Members are engaged in looking for another co-chair. Contact Sara with any ideas or thoughts.
- Sara gave an update on the fundraising progress. Approximately 75% of the three year goal is committed. There are pending applications and the fundraising is still moving forward.

VI. Meeting Adjourned

Next Steering Committee Meeting will take place on April 25th, 2007 from 7:30-9:00AM @ MIBOR