

# Minutes

## Great Indy Neighborhoods Initiative Steering Committee Meeting MIBOR February 20, 2008 7:30-9:00 AM

**In Attendance:** Richard Bray, Near Westside neighborhood; Ryan Poor, Ice Miller; Ted Massey, LISC; Bill Taft, LISC; Sara Vanslambrook, LISC; Anne Marie Predovich, INRC; Turae Dabney, Crooked Creek; Jim Muholland, resident; Melina Kennedy, Baker & Daniels; John Hall, HUD; Beth Gibson, West Indianapolis; Bruce Curry, IndyGo; Scott Truex, BSU; Lisa Angrick, BRAG; Maggie Lewis, LINCC; Tony Macklin, CICF; Brienne Delaney, MIBOR; Nick Weber, City of Indianapolis; Moira Carlstedt, INHP; Helen Lands, Faye B. Glick Center; Mark Fisher, Greater Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce; Julie Ellison, Near Westside; Amy Tompkins, INRC; Josh Bowling, INRC; Tim Martin, IPD Deputy Chief; Mike Knight, ACI; Pat Dubach, Redev Group; Jennifer Rice, SEND; Diane Arnold, Hawthorne Community Center; Mark Stewart, SEND; Tara Seeley, CICF; Ann Marie Hanlon, NESCO Taskforce; Joe Bowling, John Boner Center; Lamont Hulse, Making Connections; Mark Jakubovie, resident; Maury Plambeck, City of Indianapolis DMD; Greg Fennig, IPL; Annie Hernandez, Leadership Ventures; Philip Hooper, DMD; Mary Clark, National City Bank; Jan Diggins, Citizens Gas; Marc McAleavey, INRC; Moira Carlstedt, INHP; Carmen DeRusha, Purdue Extension; Bill Brooks, Indianapolis Colts; Andy Frazier, IACED; Guy Hayes, UWCI; Mark Gramelspacher, CMW Inc

### I. Call to Order & Approval of Minutes

Steering Committee co-chair Melina Kennedy opened the meeting and welcomed Committee members. The October meeting minutes were approved.

### II. Welcoming Remarks

Deputy Mayor for Economic Development Nick Weber offered opening remarks, welcoming the group to the second year of GINI and expressing his interest in getting up to speed on all aspects of GINI and the quality-of-life plans.

Bill Taft then kicked off the presentation of the neighborhood plans with a brief overview of the first year of GINI, recapping the community building and planning activities that took place in each of the six Demonstration Initiative neighborhoods.

### III. Quality of life plans

#### a. **BRAG**

Lisa Angrick, GINI Coordinator, recapped the engagement and planning processes in the BRAG area over the first year of GINI. The BRAG plan has six action areas, a summary of projects under each of these areas was provided. Moving into 2008, the BRAG group is focusing on building its base of resident leaders, specifically through a training offered by INRC. Continued outreach remains a high priority for the neighborhood. The neighborhood unveiled its plan to the neighborhood at the BRAG annual meeting on Feb 13. The 2008 Farmers Market will relocate to 62<sup>nd</sup> and Binford Blvd.

#### b. **Crooked Creek**

Turae Dabney and Helen Lands presented the Crooked Creek neighborhood's plan. This is a neighborhood breaking out of organizational silos, and increasingly recognizing the value of

collaboration. Public infrastructure, neighborhood residential and commercial revitalization, and strengthening the neighborhood's identity are top priorities. The plan contains 2 public art projects, including gateways at 71<sup>st</sup> and Michigan Rd. as well as at 56<sup>th</sup> and Michigan Rd. Another major goal expressed in the plan is to make the area more walkable. The lack of sidewalks presents detracts from the area's public safety, as many residents are forced to walk on streets where the volume of traffic is quite high. Looking at existing plans, the neighborhood also saw the need to develop a stronger identity, so that the areas around Michigan Rd. were clearly understood as neighborhoods.

**c. Southeast**

Jennifer Rice recapped the 7 core goals of the Southeast plan. The neighborhood is continuing to pursue broad efforts to build community while also recognizing the unique identity of each neighborhood. The plan addresses youth programming, clean up of Pleasant Run, workforce development, housing, crime. In addition, the plan identifies strategies to get the community more involved in schools. The SENSE charter school will serve as the center of this activity.

**d. Near East**

Joe Bowling, GINI Coordinator, shared an impressive set of statistics: The Near Eastside's planning process has engaged 552 people and 100 different agencies in 149 objectives expressed in the neighborhood's quality-of life plan. GINI was even building momentum in the neighborhood as planning winds down. Joe then highlighted some key projects in the plan. The first will be housing development in the Willard Park and St. Clair neighborhoods. These are areas with severely blighted stocks of housing. Making a change in these neighborhoods will be key to changing perceptions of the area. In addition, the neighborhood would like to continue to develop East 10<sup>th</sup> Street into a commercial destination. There is interest in developing School 97 into a Visual and Performing Arts Center, similar to the Manchester Craftsmen's Guild in Pittsburgh. Also in the plan is the development of a Center for Working Families at the John Boner Center to expand the offering of asset-building services. Other projects include revitalization of the Pogue's Run Trail and reinvesting energy in the creation of block clubs to make neighborhoods safer.

**e. West Indianapolis**

Beth Gibson provided the presentation on West Indianapolis' plan. Their work will focus on addressing land use issues in a mixed-use community, implementing a streetscape plan that will create numerous gateways into the neighborhood, connecting the neighborhood to Indy Greenways, structuring a community fund to sustain neighborhood-based initiatives, and developing a Center for Working Families at the Mary Rigg Neighborhood Center to strengthen asset-building services.

**f. Near West Side**

Richard Bray provided the details on the Near Westside plan. The first year of GINI was challenging in this neighborhood since the transition to a resident-driven, comprehensive approach was new for the neighborhood. Key issues addressed in the plan include housing—residents canvassed the entire area coding the condition of 7500 units of housing. This information will be used to identify clusters of dilapidated homes and will help shape strategies related to home repair and new construction. This neighborhood also wants to develop a stronger identity through tree plantings and the creation of gateways in collaboration with the Herron School of Art. A newly formed business association is focusing on development of the Washington and Michigan Street commercial corridors. Finally, the public safety activities of Weed and Seed will also be sustained through GINI.

**g. Next Steps**

Bill Taft discussed the next steps towards the implementation of the plans. He held up the plans as national models, since they were developed with limited support from professional planners. He asked that the Steering Committee help spread the word—explaining to the broader Indianapolis community what the plans are, and where they come from. The April 8 unveiling event will be an opportunity to formalize some of these partnerships. LISC will be presenting an investment portfolio that highlights projects in each neighborhood ready for immediate investment. The Steering Committee has the knowledge, networks, and access to financial resources to help support these plans, so its continuing involvement is critical.

V. Working Group Updates

- **Engagement** Ryan Poor recapped awards made during 2007 through the IMAGINE grants program. Over \$43,000 in matching grants were made last year. The Engagement Initiative has more than \$60,000 to award in 2008. In addition, INRC received \$80,000 from the Greater Indianapolis Progress Committee to support IMAGINE. The working group is looking at how to spend these funds
- **Communications**  
The Indy Star Editorial Board remains aware of GINI. Jane Lichtenberg has also followed GINI on her blog for the Star. Ed Perez continues to make inroads with the local Latino media.

VI. Meeting Adjourned

**Next Steering Committee Meeting will take place on April 23, 2008 from 7:30-9:00AM @ MIBOR**