

Minutes

Great Indy Neighborhoods Initiative Steering Committee Meeting

CITIZENS GAS

April 25, 2007

7:30-9:00 AM

In Attendance: Lisa Angrick, BRAG; Laura Bramble, IMCPL; Joe Bowling, Near Eastside; Ray Brinkmeyer, Brag; Tom Darling, Ivy Tech State College; Brienne Delaney, MIBOR; Carmen DeRusha, Purdue Extension-Marion County; Jan Diggins, Citizens Gas; Roland Dorson, Greater Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce; Patrick Dubach, Redevelopment Group; Greg Fennig, IPL; David Forsell, KIB; Andy Frazier, City of Indianapolis; Christie Gillespie, ICND; Lena Hackett, Community Solutions; Guy Hayes, Central Indiana United Way; Lamont Hulse, Making Connections; Mark Jakubovie, resident; Scott Keller, Council; Melina Kennedy, Baker & Daniels; Beth Leeson, Annie E. Casey; Tony Macklin, CICF; John Conley, Indianapolis Police Department; Kumar Menon, City of Indianapolis Public Works Dept.; Jim Muholland, resident; Jackie Nytes, Council; Maury Plambeck, City of Indianapolis DMD; Chris Pryor, MIBOR; Lyman Rhodes, Tara Seeley, CICF; Maisha Simmons, INRC; Scott Truex, Ball State; Maggie McCoy, WIDC; Mark McAlveavey, INCR; Anne-Marie Predovich, INRC; Gabrielle Biciunas, LISC; Ted Massey, LISC; Bill Taft, LISC; Sara Vanslambrook, LISC.

I. Call to Order & Approval of Minutes

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

II. Presentation by Near Eastside

Joe Bowling, the Near Eastside GINI staff coordinator, presented an update to Steering Committee members on the GINI process on the Near Eastside. The neighborhood began their process with asset mapping and conducting monthly meetings. The neighborhood identified Latino outreach as a priority and received an early action grant to hire a Latino outreach coordinator. Maria Lomely is the Latino coordinator. A website has been created describing the GINI process and the neighborhood. Annie Hernandez has been chosen to facilitate the Quality of Life Plan. The Near Eastside community event will take place on June 16th at Tech High School. The event will be oriented around discussions with three small group meetings. At this meeting, the development of a community quilt will begin as a way to highlight how distinctive and connected the Near Eastside neighborhood is. Each neighborhood will choose a fabric and will be given a square in which to display their vision. Prior to the community event, the Steering Committee will revisit their asset mapping around the eleven principles. The goal for the neighborhood is to work with and build existing groups and organizations.

III. Presentation by Binford

Lisa Angrick, the GINI staff coordinator for Binford Redevelopment and Growth (BRAG), presented an update on their progress with GINI. The neighborhood process began with an orientation meeting in February. From this meeting, a Steering Committee consisting of a more diverse group was pieced together. A group of ten individuals will conduct interviews and present the data and findings on June 10th. The community envisioning meeting will take place on June 23rd. Three students from SPEA have collected data and conducted surveys throughout the neighborhood and will give a presentation of the results. Binford has been awarded an early action grant for a Farmer's Market. The Farmer's Market will be lead by volunteers and take place on June 2nd. The market will become the community gathering place. Many nonprofits have been invited to participate. The neighborhood has developed a website with information regarding the GINI process. School engagement and involvement has been identified

as an important priority. Lisa informed the Steering Committee members of upcoming school meetings she will attend. The BRAG guests expressed that the process has been going well and are Steering Committee members are trying to spread the GINI process to all individuals and entities of the neighborhood.

IV. City Services and Neighborhoods Presentation

Andy Fraizer introduced Urban Fellow Donna Blackmon and the project she has been working on. For the past few months, Donna has been working on a project interviewing senior leadership on how the city departments can better engage and be responsive to the communities. The purpose of the project is to provide suggestions for senior staff on ways to interact with neighborhoods in a better and more efficient manner. Donna examined how Los Angeles dealt with this process. Suggestions Los Angeles provided include; promote public interaction, provide trainings, conflict resolution meetings, and allow neighborhoods to express their needs. Interviews and surveys were conducted on how to foster and further engage the city departments with the communities. The end goal will be to establish a set of recommendations for each department and how they can improve their job in assisting neighborhoods. Please contact the DMD for suggestions on how the departments can be enhanced.

IV. Working Group Updates

Handouts with detail explanations of each working groups progress was distributed at the beginning of the meeting.

- **Communications**– Brienne Delaney gave an update on the Communications working group. The Crooked Creek Press event took place at the beginning of the year. This first press event highlighted events and recognized the donors. The Editorial Board meeting occurred on April 19th. Anne-Marie Predovich informed members on how the meeting introduced the philosophies and process of GINI. The Near Eastside Press Event is scheduled for sometime in mid May. The two GINI documents will be available in Spanish and released in May. An effort to reach out to African American and Latino media has been discussed. A scribe has been hired to identify and write neighborhood stories.
- **Demonstration** – Jan Diggins reported on the status of the Demonstration working group. The Clowes Fund has granted \$15,000 towards GINI Latino outreach efforts. This grant will fund translation of documents, purchase of translation equipment, and a grassroots leadership training for Latino outreach. Five training sessions have been conducted. Early Action Grants have been awarded to five projects. Total amount of funds committed thus far has been \$20,990.
- **Engagement** – Pat Dubach provided an update on the Engagement working group. The committee has engaged nine of the eleven non-selected neighborhoods and hosted a dinner at INRC in order to receive their input and suggestions. Applications for the IMAGINE grant and matching funds can be found in the handout. Criteria for the grants must show leadership and neighborhood involvement. The next step is determining what should be done with the grant applications. The first round of applications are due on May 16th. The purpose of these grants and committee is to support and engage the non selected neighborhoods.
- **Fund Development** – Bill Taft introduced the fund development committee. Good progress has been made in connecting GINI with local foundations and organizations. The next step is to reach out to those agencies, organizations, and businesses not currently participating in GINI. These new connections will help complete fundraising. The goal is to support the neighborhoods once their quality of life plans are completed. This committee will be able to form connections and attract resources to neighborhoods to continue community engagement once the three years are finished. Contact Bill Taft for any ideas or suggestions.

V. Other Business- Evaluation

Bill Taft gave an update on the data and evaluation meeting that took place on April 23rd. The purpose of evaluation is to illustrate what success looks like after three years. The evaluation process will be one way to measure success. A draft of the process of success will be released by July. For more information, contact Bill Taft.

VI. Meeting Adjourned

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