

Minutes

Great Indy Neighborhoods Initiative Steering Committee Meeting

English Foundation Building, Conference Rooms 6 & 7

April 26, 2006

7:30-9:00 AM

Attendees: Jennifer Bennett, Indianapolis Coalition for Neighborhood Development; Josh Bowling, INRC; Bill Brooks, Colts; Melissa Cairns, LISC; Jim Capraro, consultant; Bruce Curry, Indianapolis Neighborhood Housing Partnership; Thomas Darling, Ivy Tech; Brienne Delaney, MIBOR; Pat Dubach, Redevelopment Group; David Forsell, Keep Indianapolis Beautiful; Andy Fraizer, City of Indianapolis; Mark Friedman, consultant; Lena Hackett, Community Solutions; John Hall, U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development; Diane Jackson, MLK Center; Mark Jakubovie, resident Pike township; Joanne Joyce, IPIC; Scott Keller, City County Council; Mike Knight, Indianapolis Arts Council; Tony Macklin, Central Indiana Community Foundation; Bill Moreau, Barnes and Thornburg; Beverly Mukes-Gaither, Fifth Third Bank; Amy Murphy-Nugen, Indianapolis Coalition for Neighborhood Development; Jackie Nytes, City County Council; Ed Perez, State Farm; Maury Plambeck, City of Indianapolis; Anne-Marie Predovich, INRC; Chris Pryor, MIBOR; Dixie Ray, resident east side; Dave Sanders, CICOA; Tara Seeley, Central Indiana Community Foundation; Yvonne Shaheen, volunteer; Kevin Sifferlen, City of Indianapolis; Bill Taft, LISC; Pitt Thompson, Clarian; Scott Truex, Ball State; Sara VanSlambrook, LISC

Call to Order and Introductions

Steering Committee co-chairs Yvonne Shaheen and John Hall opened the meeting by asking for introductions and the most memorable thing about neighborhoods where participants were raised.

Yvonne Shaheen thanked participants for participating and their comments about building community and turned to Bill Taft for the next item on the agenda.

Great Indy Neighborhoods Initiatives Overview

Bill Taft thanked all for attending and participating in Great Indy Neighborhoods.

Bill explained that the Great Indy Neighborhoods Initiatives grew out of a conversation which occurred between Mayor Peterson and neighborhood leaders back in early 2004 when they talked about the need to broaden and re-energize the vision for community development to improve neighborhoods.

Conversation resulted in a Community Development Summit, where several hundred people came together to talk about neighborhood assets and challenges. From that summit, a Strategy Group came together to work with the community on those ideas and spent the last year developing a programmatic response, what became known as the Great Indy Neighborhoods Initiatives. Great Indy Neighborhoods will help neighborhoods engage in addressing those challenges and maximize the assets first identified at the summit.

The three Great Indy Neighborhoods Initiatives will encourage three founding ideas:

1. **Getting more neighbors engaged.** We are trying to get people passionate about their neighborhood. Many of the neighbors who are not involved have a lot to offer. We have to be conscious of efforts to engage them in a way that's positive. This ends up to be a long-term benefit for the community because many people who engaged work their way to leadership positions. Indianapolis needs more people in community leadership positions. Engagement/civic participation doesn't happen automatically. There have to be strategies. Engagement is the first initiative.
2. **Once neighbors are engaged, a second element is to set a common vision.** After neighbors are engaged, we want to encourage them to collaborate and overcome past disagreements by working towards a shared vision. This vision needs to be concrete with action steps—a quality of life plan. The quality of life plan will include different things, everything from police issues, housing, civic life, recreation, healthy living, education, and more. It can vary from each neighborhood and address a wide range of issues. The plan must identify who is responsible for executing specific actions to realize the vision. An organization or individual will commit to the action. Based on the plan, we will know when we are successful and how that concrete vision will be held together. It will be much easier to get other people on board.
3. **Once the vision is set, partners need to collaborate around that vision at the neighborhood and citywide level.** Currently, collaboration is not necessarily built into how the local community supports neighborhoods. There is sometimes frustration that each group did one thing but the sum was not what it could be. We need to get citywide organizations and support to collaborate around quality of life plans. We need to view these as marching orders to support communities.

Building on the founding ideas, the three Great Indy Neighborhoods Initiatives are engagement, implementation, and demonstration.

1. **Engagement initiative** - Very broad, seeking to promote the 11 principles for healthy neighborhoods. Principles are a general guideline for what a healthy neighborhood looks like. Seeding ideas and supporting specific tools to help people build more of a sense of security and community. INRC is taking the lead to make resources available to engage neighborhoods through this initiative during the 3-year period for Great Indy Neighborhoods.
2. **Implementation initiative** - To help neighborhoods that have done a good job of engaging neighbors and identifying a common vision. Will support neighborhood collaborations and planning that have a few pieces missing. They may not have engaged enough people or may have missed a few elements of a comprehensive plan. We will provide staff and technical support to fill in these gaps. The level and type of support will vary slightly based on the needs identified by the neighborhoods.
3. **Demonstration initiative** – This initiative will be the most intense and will focus on neighborhoods that require a great deal of engagement and planning. It will provide support for community building, quality of life planning and collaborative execution of the quality of

life plan. The process will be holistic, demanding, and time consuming. These neighborhoods can't be starting from scratch, but will need to have a convening organization with capacity to carry out the work.

Yvonne Shaheen - asked if everyone had the map handout showing the responses to a Request for Letters of Intent (LOI) for the implementation and demonstration initiatives. Seventeen (17) responses were received.

Anne-Marie Predovich reviewed the Request for LOI document. Responses were due April 3 inviting folks from neighborhoods to submit an application for this pilot program. At the end of January and February, a few informational sessions were held where the program was introduced and discussed. 120 people from neighborhoods all over the city attended. Pages 6-8 of outline shows eligibility criteria with 2 different levels. Map shows where applications were received.

Steering Committee Mission & Expectations

Next, Yvonne Shaheen summarized the role of the Steering Committee. Yvonne referred to the Roles and Responsibilities handout. The mission of the Steering Committee is "to promote comprehensive community development as a means to integrate civic, social, physical, and economic development activities in Indianapolis neighborhoods." Tasks for the Steering Committee are to govern, fundraise, and promote and champion a holistic approach to community development. The Steering Committee will do the majority of its work in smaller working groups. The Steering Committee will make the decision on which neighborhoods will be chosen. The working groups are the LOI review committee, engagement committee, implementation/demonstration committee, and communications committee. Yvonne encouraged all members to sign-up for a working group. Sara Vanslambrook circulated sign-up sheets.

Sara Vanslambrook next described the role of staffing organizations—Local Initiatives Support Corporation, Indianapolis Neighborhood Resource Center, and City of Indianapolis. From the Roles and Responsibilities handout, these three entities will provide the day-to-day support. Major tasks including fundraising, technical assistance to neighborhoods, and coordination of Great Indy Neighborhoods activities.

Andy Fraizer next discussed the timeline handout and meeting schedule. Dates to put on members' calendars include Steering Committee meetings on May 31 from 7:30-9:00, July 18 and July 20 from 7:30 – 10:30 a.m., September 13 7:30 – 9:00 a.m., and November 8 7:30 – 9:00 a.m. Other working group meeting dates were also discussed.

Declaration of Interests

John Hall next reviewed the Declaration of Interests statements. It would be seen as conflict if Steering Committee members serve on the boards of applicants for Great Indy Neighborhoods or would benefit financially from the selection of a particular neighborhood. John asked that members please remove themselves from the LOI Review committee and Steering Committee discussions if there is a perception of conflict. John asked members to return the conflict of interest statements in their meeting materials packet to Sara.

A discussion incurred around the declaration of interest and the direct impact on the selection of neighborhoods. It was acknowledged that it is very difficult to attend meetings and not comment, but the importance of being impartial was reiterated. Perhaps it would be better not to attend the selection meetings (July 18 & 20) at all. If people have feelings about that, now is the time to talk about it. Another member said it would be important and helpful to hear the presentations, since we are going to work with the groups for the next three years. The final suggestion was to attend the presentations on July 18 and 20, but not participate in the discussion that proceeds the presentations or the final decision-making. There was general consensus around this last suggestion.

Next Steps

Yvonne reminded everyone of next meeting on May 31, 7:30 a.m. She asked everyone to sign up for a committee and encouraged all to participate.

Meeting adjourned.