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## Minutes

Great Indy Neighborhoods Initiative Steering Committee Meeting  
Metropolitan Indianapolis Board of Realtors  
September 13, 2006 7:30-9:00 AM

**Attendees:** Josh Bowling, INRC; Steve Campbell, City of Indianapolis; Bruce Curry, Indianapolis Neighborhood Housing Partnership; Carmen DeRusha, Purdue Extension Marion County; Brienne Delaney, MIBOR; Jan Diggins, Citizens Gas; Pat Dubach, Redevelopment Group; Greg Fennig, IPL; David Forsell, Keep Indianapolis Beautiful; Andy Fraizer, City of Indianapolis; Guy Hayes, United Way of Central Indiana; Diane Jackson, MLK Center; Tammie Jones, Greater Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce; Scott Keller, City-County Council; Monica Strigari, Indianapolis Coalition for Neighborhood Development; Jackie Nytes, City County Council; Ed Perez, State Farm Insurance Companies; Ryan Poor, Ice Miller; Chris Pryor, MIBOR; Anne-Marie Predovich, INRC; Dixie Ray, resident east side; Tara Seeley, Central Indiana Community Foundation; Yvonne Shaheen, volunteer; Bill Taft, LISC; Amy Tompkins, INRC; Sara VanSlambrook, LISC

### I. Call to Order

Steering Committee co-chair Yvonne Shaheen opened the meeting and welcomed the Committee members.

### II. Review of Selection Process

Bill Taft briefly reviewed the neighborhood selection process. A Request for Letters of Intent was released on January 27, 2006. Seventeen letters of intent were submitted to the Great Indy Neighborhoods Steering Committee on April 3, 2006. By the end of April, staff made an initial review of applications using basic eligibility requirements. During the first few weeks of May, a working group of the Steering Committee reviewed the letters using a point system based on selection criteria as outlined in the Request for Letters. On May 31, the Steering Committee agreed to move forward ten applicants. These ten top scoring applicants were given feedback from the working group, asked to submit additional information, and prepared a presentation for the Steering Committee at meetings on July 18 & 20. At the end of those meetings, any Steering Committee member with a potential conflict of interest left the room and the remaining members voted on their top six choices for selection. There was considerable consensus among the members on the top six neighborhoods. These six top voted neighborhoods were selected by the Steering Committee to participate in the Great Indy Neighborhoods Demonstration Initiative for three years.

Steering Committee members were provided an updated map that details the boundaries of the six selected neighborhoods.

### III. Working Group Updates

- Ryan Poor provided an update on the status of the Engagement Working Group. The group met on June 21 and on August 16. At those meetings, the members agreed upon a definition of engagement, reviewed a draft version of the resource guide and determined their next steps. The Engagement Initiative will first focus its efforts on providing

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feedback to the four neighborhoods that were asked to present, but were not selected (CAFÉ, Children’s Museum, Irvington, and Community Hospital East). Written feedback on their presentations will be provided, in addition to a face-to-face meeting with a small group of Steering Committee and staff to introduce follow-up opportunities through the Engagement Initiative. In the meantime, a letter will be prepared for submission to the seven other GINI applicants (UNWA, Greater Garden City, Crown Hill, Concord, Forest Manor, Oasis CDC, Meridian Kessler) asking that they advise the working group of their interest in participating in the engagement initiative and, if interested, to complete and return a survey (to be created) outlining the engagement services they would like to receive. Also, the Resource Guide has gone to the printer and will be available on September 18.

- Jan Diggins reported on the progress of the Demonstration Working Group. The press conference on August 8 was a great success with large turnout of community stakeholders and press at Hawthorne Park. A note on communication you may have noticed. In our external messaging we are dropping the implementation/demonstration differentiation and just calling it “demonstration” in order to reduce confusion and clarify our message. Programmatically, the difference of intensity and expectations will remain. Staff has met with each neighborhood to review next steps and answer initial questions. An orientation for the Demonstration neighborhoods will take place on October 2<sup>nd</sup> from 6:00 – 9:00 PM at MIBOR. All Steering Committee members are welcome to attend.
- Ed Perez reported on the progress of the Communications Working Group. The group is working on developing a long-term strategic communication plan. One aspect of this plan is thinking about how to capture neighborhood stories. The group is also looking into translating the Resource Guide into Spanish. It’s important that we think about translating all documents produced. We also need to be culturally sensitive to make sure that the words we’re using make sense in other cultures. Finally, the group is putting together a comprehensive media list that includes traditional, as well as neighborhood-based, media outlets.

A Steering Committee member commented that the Storytelling Arts of Indiana is collecting stories for Indianapolis Downtown Inc for their cultural districts project.

#### IV. New Business

- Carmen DeRusha presented an update on the discussions of outreach to the Latino population. Out of the six selected neighborhoods, five of them clearly identified outreach to the Latino population in their neighborhood as both a challenge and an opportunity in their presentations to the Steering Committee. Because this arose as a common theme across these neighborhoods, a small group of Steering Committee members is planning to meet to talk about how we might support these outreach efforts through the Demonstration Initiative. That meeting will take place today at 3:30 at INRC (1802 N. Illinois Street) and all are welcome. Also, in response to interest expressed during a meeting with the Mayor, a group of Latino pastors asked to meet with GINI staff to learn more about the initiatives. This meeting took place on September 6 and was a good introduction to many Latino leaders in the faith community.

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A Steering Committee member brought up the question of follow-up with the African American led neighborhoods that were not selected to participate.

The Engagement Initiative will build capacity and leadership in neighborhoods across the city, beginning with those neighborhoods that applied but were not selected to participate.

- Yvonne Shaheen discussed the need for a fund development working group to be established. We are looking to gather together a small team of Steering Committee members to help staff strategize fundraising for both initiatives. This is an exciting opportunity to share the message of community development with a broader audience than has been approached in the past. We are seeking volunteers. Let Yvonne know if you are interested.

Greg Fennig announced that Rebuilding Together has announced that it will select a GINI neighborhood for its 2008 Christmas in April event. The selection will take place in March. This event annually invests home improvements to the equivalent of more than \$1 million in 27 homes in an Indianapolis neighborhood each year.

## V. Meeting adjourned

The next Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for November 8 at 7:30 AM at the English Foundation located at 615 N. Alabama Street in the lower level conference rooms.