

**OLNEYVILLE CHOICE
PRINCIPALS MEETING
JANUARY 18, 2013**



PROVIDENCE HOUSING AUTHORITY BOARD ROOM @ 3:00PM – 4:30PM

MINUTES

INTRODUCTIONS

Melissa Sanzaro called the meeting to order at 3:00pm.

ATTENDEES

Paul Tavares
Nancy Howard
John Kelly
Lisa Castellanos

Monique Hazard
Jennifer Hawkins
Nic Retsinas

Frank Shea
Melissa Sanzaro
Bonnie Nickerson
Richard Weinberg

INTRODUCTIONS:

- o The CNI Principals and Partners met to update the PHA's new Board of Commissioner Chairman, Nicolas Retsinas on the details of the CNI Planning Grant activities and additional Olneyville initiatives.

PARTNER UPDATES:

PROVIDENCE HOUSING AUTHORITY (PHA)

- o Mr. Tavares began the meeting by introducing Mr. Resinas and all attendees followed by introducing themselves as well.
- o Ms. Sanzaro began the PHA's updates by stating that HUD had announced the first round of RAD program winners (list of winners was given to attendees).
- o Also, the HUD CNI Team is visiting the Woonsocket CNI Planning Team in March 2013 and would like to visit the Olneyville Neighborhood and join the Providence CNI Team for a meeting, if possible. Updates will follow as coordination progresses.
- o Mr. Weinberg updated attendees by stating that a Green Technical Assistance application was submitted on January 9, 2013. The application focuses on pursuing an increase in resident participation and incentives in Green initiatives and seeks guidance from HUD on how to structure resident incentives.
- o The Choice Olneyville website is being updated with more visuals, the latest Quarterly Report, the new CNI Team logo, and Partner information. Also, the CNI logo will be located on the PHA's main website. Ms. Sanzaro sought the participation of the CNI Principals with updating the Choice site with their agency's information and on providing input on the overall look/content of the site.
- o The Quarterly Report was submitted to HUD on January 15, 2013.
- o To date, the Manton Heights Needs Assessment has 320 completed surveys and the next Resident Meeting will focus on discussing the most pertinent results of the Needs Assessment. Updates will be made available as they develop.
- o Additionally, the PHA is seeking to coordinate a meeting with the Providence Police Department and RI College in order to gauge possible interest in their participation the CNI Initiative.

OLNEYVILLE HOUSING CORPORATION (OHC)

- o Ms. Hawkins stated that OHC is focusing on the next Low Income Housing Tax Credit application due in the fall of 2013.
- o OHC will be hosting a Crime Watch meeting on January 29, 2013 at 6pm. Attendees were invited to be present.
- o Ms. Hawkins continued by stating that the Business Improvement District effort continues and that Brewster-Thornton Architect Group (BTAG) has submitted renderings of the suggested façade improvements for the businesses in Olneyville Square. BTAG is currently working on turning the drawings into architectural/construction designs.
- o OHC continues to work with the Miranda Group to develop a marketing and communication strategy for the businesses located in Olneyville Square.
- o OHC is also working on a Department Of Health Community Health Equity and Wellness project that will focus on the overall wellness of the residents in the Olneyville Neighborhood over a three year period.

MEETING STREET

- o Mr. Kelly began by stating that follow-up results on the 6-week Kindergarten Prep Program, which took place summer 2012 at Manton Heights, showed a baseline increase from 32% to 54% of participating children who were ready and doing well in the Kindergarten class at William D'Abate School.
- o Mr. Kelly continued by saying that public schools are welcoming Meeting Street specialists into their classrooms to conduct evaluations on the children and provide ways to improve approach or curriculum.
- o Meeting Street met with members of the Brown University Swearer Center and is seeking their assistance with conducting a Longitudinal Study. Updates will follow.
- o Meeting Street and its Partner applicants were not awarded the Promise Grant. The Partners are using the feedback from HUD to develop a new application.

LOCAL SUPPORT INITIATIVES CORPORATION (LISC)

- o Ms. Howard stated that LISC is going to provide technical assistance regarding safety to the Promise and CNI grants that had recently been awarded.
- o LISC is also working on the BYRNE grant, which focuses on the level of security in the area from Hyat Street to Salmon Street.

PROVIDENCE PLANNING DEPARTMENT

- o Ms. Nickerson began by stating the Planning Department is continuing its work on the Challenge Grant which focuses on five main transportation corridors, one of which is Manton Avenue. The Grant award total is \$900,000 and the four other transportation corridors are Elmwood Avenue, Broad Street, North Main Street and Chalkstone Avenue. The purpose of the Grant is to develop a study that will highlight the improvements that need to be made on the transportation corridors and also to develop an arts theme for each corridor that will be a unifying aspect of the improvements that will be made.
- o Ms. Nickerson continued by updating the attendees on the Olneyville Circulator Study. The Study seeks to extend Delaine Street and connect it to Atwood Avenue. Also, the Study will pursue to incorporate mixed-use development in that area.
- o The Urban Land Institute (ULI) will be issuing its final report on Providence later this month. Ms. Nickerson participated in the ULI and stated that the most relevant aspect of the ULI was the sharing of ideas regarding how to increase economic development in the City of Providence.

TRANSFORMATION PLAN DISCUSSION

- Partners discussed the importance of the Transformation Plan Draft/Final Plan due in March 2013. It was stated that it should reflect the shared vision in each category of HOUSING, NEIGHBORHOOD AND PEOPLE as well as prepare for a CNI Implementation Grant. The need for smaller groups with category focus was stated and has been utilized in other CNI awardee models.

SUB-COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

- The Principals agreed to establish three CNI sub-committees that will focus on: Education, Workforce Development and Housing. Meeting Street will be the lead participant in the Education sub-committee, OHC will lead the workforce development committee and the PHA will lead the Housing sub-committee. A possible fourth committee concentrating on Social Services may be added later, further discussion is necessary.

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

- **PRINCIPALS' MEETINGS:** The Principals' Meetings are usually held on every 3rd Friday of the month at 9:00 A.M unless otherwise decided. The meeting locations will be determined monthly. The Principals agreed to change this format moving forward.
- **SUB-PARTNER MEETINGS:** The sub-partner meetings format was discussed. It was decided that bringing all of the sub-partners together for one meeting was not necessarily productive. Sub-partners will be met with at other meetings and discussions will be recorded.

The next meeting will be announced.