

**OLNEYVILLE CHOICE
PRINCIPALS MEETING
MAY 18, 2012**



PROVIDENCE HOUSING AUTHORITY BOARD ROOM @ 9:00 AM – 11:00AM

MINUTES

INTRODUCTIONS

Sorrel Devine called the meeting to order at 9:10am.

ATTENDEES

Present:

Sorrel Devine	Christine Medeiros
Lisa Castellanos	Jennifer Hawkins
Richard Weinberg	Nate Ginsburg
Frank Shea	John Kelly
Nancy Howard	Melissa Sanzaro

CONFERENCE CALLS WITH HUD CHOICE TEAM:

- Mr. Shea and Ms. Devine participated in the HUD Conference Call on April 25, 2012. HUD updated call participants on the appointment of Mindy Turbov as the new Director of the CNI Program.
- The Choice Team is still in the process of finalizing the details of the upcoming National CNI Conference scheduled for August 2012 in Washington, DC.
- The next conference call will be held on Wednesday, May 23, 2012 at 3pm.

CONTRACTS UPDATE:

MEETING STREET SCHOOL CONTRACT STATUS:

- Mr. Kelly stated the Education & Child Development System Assessment is complete. Meeting Street is waiting for the results which should be available within the next two weeks.
- Additionally, the Meeting Street School is focusing on relationship building throughout the Olneyville neighborhood and is doing so through focus groups being held at the D'Abate School. Mr. Kelly also mentioned that Meeting Street has been renting community room space at Manton Heights.
- The Meeting Street School is also running a Kindergarten Prep Program over this upcoming summer. To date, the Program has 18 children signed up for the morning session and 18 children have been signed up to participate in the afternoon session.
- Mr. Kelly continued his update by stating, Meeting Street School will be launching an Early Childhood Development Initiative mid-June 2012 and updates on its progress will be made available accordingly.
- Also, Meeting Street School along with the Providence School Department, Family Services, Children's Friend and Service and the Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (RIDE) are applying for the 3rd round of funding for the Promise Neighborhood Grant due July 2012. The Grant will focus on improvements for Olneyville, the West End, the South Side and the Elmwood Avenue areas of Providence.

PRINCIPALS UPDATES:

PROVIDENCE HOUSING AUTHORITY

- Ms. Sanzaro stated that a total of \$474,000 in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds was spent at Manton Heights over the last four years. Of the \$474,000, \$448,000 was spent on landscaping, which if a demolition of Manton Heights occurred, could be saved.
- Additionally, Ms. Sanzaro stated the PHA is currently working on gathering information on the expenses incurred through the Capital Fund Program (CFP) at Manton Heights in order to further determine if the use of the CFP funds limits the possibility of a demolition Manton Heights.

OLNEYVILLE HOUSING CORPORATION

- Mr. Shea stated that the Purchase and Sales Agreement for the Imperial Knife Company building has been signed. Mr. Shea continued by saying the environmental studies are being conducted and easement issues with the California Cell Company are being researched and resolved.
- Mr. Shea continued the update by stating that OHC will be applying for Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC). If successful, housing development will ensue on King Street and at St. Theresa's Church.
- Additionally, Rhode Island Housing (RIH) only has one project for the LIHTC development, therefore, 8 Community Development Centers (CDC) will be competing and OHC plans to exceed expectations with their application. The OHC application will be based on utilizing the future development project as replacement housing for Manton Heights' residents. A portion of the available \$35M will be used in the form of Vouchers.
- Mr. Shea continued by stating the LIHTC and Foreclosure Project has closed and its successes will be featured on the News.
- Ms. Hawkins presented the Principals with an Excel spreadsheet of all of the activities the OHC is currently involved in throughout Olneyville and the surrounding areas. Ms. Hawkins emphasized the importance of having such a document in order to prevent projects from overlapping resources.
- Also, the OHC is involved with the development plans of the re-design of the Joslin Park Recreation Center in order to save the gym and demolition the rest of the building.
- Ms. Hawkins proceeded with the update by stating that the OHC had hosted its first Neighbor's Circle. During the Circle meetings residents lead the conversation with their thoughts and concerns regarding neighborhood issues. Ten male participants were present for this first meeting.

LOCAL SUPPORT INITIATIVE CORPORATION

- Ms. Howard stated the State has a Sustainable Communities Grant application in progress. The Grant period will span three years and will focus on seeking Growth Centers based on density. The topic of Social Equity is also being addressed in the Grant application and a core committee is being formed to research exactly what "social equity" means to the general public and exactly what "social equity" means to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

- Ms. Howard continued by stating that Green Development Grants and Funds are available through LISC.
- Also, the Department of Justice Grant is due in June 2012. LISC is currently working with OHC on meeting the grant application deadline.
- Additionally, Ms. Howard informed the Principals that the City is in the preliminary stages of applying for the Financial Empowerment Centers Grant.

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

- The Planning Department was not present for this meeting and will be updating the Principals of their ongoing projects at the June 18, 2012 meeting.

BREWSTER-THORNTON

- Mr. Ginsburg informed the Principals that BTAG had attended a meeting with the City's Planning Department. The parties met to discuss any overlap that may occur as a result of the purposed work in the BTAG's Transformation Plan for Manton Heights and the surrounding neighborhood and the work being completed by the Manton Avenue Corridor Group. Both agreed that not much overlap is foreseen and in fact, BTAG decided to join the Manton Avenue Corridor.
- Mr. Ginsburg continued by stating a meeting took place with BTAG and the Executive Director of the Boys and Girls Club. The BGC is still planning to relocate their facility to the space across the street from Manton Heights.
- The BGC has also expressed interest in opening a gym at the PHA's Hartford Park Family Development. As progress is made, updates will be presented.

EXPANDING: IMPLEMENTATION GRANT UPDATES:

DEVELOPERS UPDATE: MEETING DATES

- A meeting with Winn is scheduled for Monday, May 21, 2012 at 9am in the PHA Board Room.
- A meeting with Trinity Financial is scheduled for Thursday, May 24, 2012 at 9am at the OHC office, 66 Chaffee Street.

NEXT STEPS:

- The Principals agreed to host a three hour meeting in June to discuss the CNI Implementation NOFA to achieve a thorough understanding of the requirements. This meeting will be attended by Principals only.

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

- **PRINCIPALS' MEETINGS:** The Principals' Meetings will be held on every 3rd Friday of the month at 9:00 A.M unless otherwise decided. The meeting locations will be determined monthly.
- **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 Thursday, June 21, 2012 at 1:30pm.