

**OLNEYVILLE CHOICE  
PRINCIPALS MEETING  
AUGUST 12, 2011**



**PROVIDENCE HOUSING AUTHORITY BOARD ROOM @ 9:00 – 10:30 AM**

# **MINUTES**

## **INTRODUCTIONS: OLNEYVILLE CHOICE PRINCIPALS**

PHA Executive Director called the meeting to order at 9:23am. (Sign-In Sheet attached)

### **ATTENDEES**

#### **Present:**

Stephen O'Rourke  
Tai VanDenBerghe  
Richard Weinberg  
Frank Shea  
Nancy Howard  
Nate Ginsburg

#### **Absent/Excused:**

Garry Bliss  
Thom Deller  
Barbara Thornton

Three of the four principal organizations were present, allowing for a meeting to conduct business to commence.

## **CNI AGREEMENT**

Mr. O'Rourke began the meeting by going through the Choice Neighborhoods Schedule of Activities that the PHA set up based on HUD's Planning Agreement.

## **PRINCIPALS UPDATE**

### **PHA**

Mr. O'Rourke appointed himself, Ms. VanDenBerghe, Mr. Weinberg and the Manton Heights Property Manager (Monique Hazard) as the PHA team for the Choice Neighborhoods grant.

The budget that was submitted to HUD was quickly reviewed so that all principal partners could agree with the revisions. Mr. O'Rourke discussed the potential for saving money on the community website designer by carrying this out in-house (Weinberg). The community website domain name was agreed to be "Choice Olneyville" and Mr. Shea noted that he had a few suggestions for how to incite comments and engage the residents to use the blog portion of the website so as to be more useful and controlled. He will submit these to Mr. Weinberg in the near future.

Mr. O'Rourke suggested going to Alton Jones with the principal leaders for a day to develop a Goals Management Plan to identify the team's key strategic issues that we hope to use the implementation grant funds towards.

Mr. Weinberg said the scope of services has been completed for the geo-thermal feasibility study at Manton Heights. It is multi-tiered including mechanical and infrastructure needs and will cost about \$17,000. A company has already approached the PHA that uses a hybrid-system.

The PHA is responsible for submitting all required paperwork to HUD. Brewster Thornton Architects will be engaged by the PHA to assist in the development of the transformation plan and to compile data.

### **OLNEYVILLE HOUSING CORPORATION**

Mr. Shea, Director of OHC, updated the group on the Riverside Mills Education Center and the Education & Child Development System Assessment scheduled activities. Riverside Mills has been under the development of the Olneyville Rivershed Water Council (ORWC). They have been seeking funding to take the Mills from the "concept" stage to actually building an Environmental Education Center there. Saving the building is not feasible, however, maintaining an original façade would be ideal. The Education & Child Development System would seek to serve early ages between 0-5 years of age. The PHA is looking into reprogramming some of this money (since Meeting Street School has moved ahead already) into land acquisition. A smaller amount of money (\$5,000-\$10,000) would still be given to Meeting Street to establish credibility and keep them on board as a sub-partner.

Mr. Shea mentioned that technical assistance could be provided by New Roots (out of Providence Plan) to aid smaller organizations in doing a needs assessment.

Mr. Shea pointed out that resident-owned businesses are already in place at the PHA, however there is still a need to partner with organizations that can develop business that will hire residents or help residents launch their own businesses.

Mr. Shea and Mr. O'Rourke both agreed that the neighborhood survey was an unnecessary step considering that OHC has already completed an extensive survey and the PHA will be doing a social service survey of its residents in the fall.

### **EXPANDING: PARTNERSHIPS**

Mr. O'Rourke gave a general overview of the upcoming agenda for the sub-partners meetings, highlighting the fact that he wants to solicit ideas from sub-partner agencies on what they can provide in terms of services, support, etc. The principal agencies will brief the potential sub-partners on our vision and where we are going, including the three main components of the initiative (housing, people, neighborhood).

### **DISCUSSION OF PRINCIPAL'S TASK LIST**

This occurred in the previous agenda items (see above).

### **SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS**

The principals will meet monthly, resident meetings will take place quarterly and the sub-partner briefings will occur on a quarterly basis.

### **FOLLOW-UP ITEMS**

- ✓ Set up a brief meeting or conference call next week to update Barbara Thornton on scope of work.
- ✓ Meet in 2 weeks to discuss content of community website and what will be updatable by the principal organizations.
- ✓ When is the Implementation round of grants?
- ✓ Let HUD know that deliverables will most likely be faster than the submitted schedule.