

**OLNEYVILLE CHOICE
PRINCIPALS MEETING
AUGUST 24, 2012**



PROVIDENCE HOUSING AUTHORITY BOARD ROOM @ 10:00 AM – 12:00PM

MINUTES

INTRODUCTIONS

Jennifer Hawkins called the meeting to order at 10:10am. There were 14 participants present at the meeting. The sign-in-sheet, agenda and documents reviewed have been attached and emailed with these minutes. If there are any corrections that need to be made to this document, please contact Melissa Sanzaro of the PHA.

ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Sorrel Devine	Christine Medeiros	Christine Medeiros
Gary Bliss	Jennifer Hawkins	Bonnie Nickerson
Richard Weinberg	Barbara Thornton	Monique Hazard
Frank Shea	John Kelly	Neil McCullugh
Nancy Howard	Melissa Sanzaro	

CHOICE NEIGHBORHOOD TRANSFORMATION PLAN UPDATES:

PEOPLE:

1. MEETING STREET'S OLNEYVILLE EARLY CHILDHOOD REPORT(BILINGUAL) IS AVAILABLE:

- Mr. Kelly informed principals that through Choice and the United Way, his organization conducted a community assessment of the early childhood development and educational systems in Olneyville. The participants of the study included Olneyville community representatives, parents, early educators, and teachers. Through an already existing Kindergarten Prep Program conducted at Manton Heights. Meeting Street determined what is needed to prepare children and their families to be ready to attend kindergarten, have a successful transition into kindergarten, and once there, succeed, and be positioned to be life-long learners.
- Mr. Kelly added that through collecting participant perspectives for the study he found it interesting that parents thought that academics readied children while educators thought that the child's ability to focus and keeping on task was important.
- The summary of the report stated that participants agree that there is a need for (1) increased collaboration and communication among all stakeholders, (2) more information on child development, and (3) accessible services for parents and educators alike to help all young children enter kindergarten ready to learn. These findings demonstrate the necessity of a comprehensive and integrative approach to the health development of young children and support the development of an inter-connected continuum of services to accomplish this. Mr. Kelly stated that ultimately, each child in kindergarten would have a portfolio inclusive of home, physical, and academic information for their educators.
- The Olneyville Early Childhood Pipeline will reflect the study's findings and recommendations to build upon several existing community assets and look to access to additional local, state, federal and private resources as they become available for a greater impact for the children in this area.

2. PROVIDENCE HOUSING AUTHORITY AND THE AMERICAN CITY COALITION MEETING:

The PHA and TACC met on August 21, 2012 in order to discuss and coordinate the Needs Assessment for the residents of Manton Heights.

- Mr. McCullugh informed the principals that TACC's approach to the Needs Assessment originates from a model used in Philadelphia. The survey/assessment consisted of 100 questions, which will be further developed with the PHA staff to speak to Manton residents and the surrounding community specifically. The sample will range from 150-170 returned surveys or 51% and will be preceded by a letter. Mr. McCullugh estimated that the entire process from start to finish will take approximately 2 months. The Philadelphia model used trained researchers to make appointments with residents to conduct a scripted introduction and survey from an unbiased standpoint.
- Ms. Sanzaro and Mrs. Hazard plan to coordinate a Resident Meeting with heads of household in October of 2012 to inform the residents of the upcoming survey/assessment, review the updates of the CNI as well as receive valuable resident feedback. In addition, Mrs. Hazard and staff have already begun to speak to their residents about CNI and have collected some common resident questions and concerns. Ms. Sanzaro asked Mr. McCullugh if the survey/assessment could be performed by previous PHA residents who graduated from college but the consensus was that an unbiased approach wouldn't be possible in that scenario. Finally, it was suggested to TACC that those who conduct the surveys must be bilingual due to the high percentage of Spanish speaking MH residents.
- Mrs. Hazard is to provide TACC with numerous demographics in Manton Heights. Both PHA and TACC intend to meet again to discuss the demographics, survey question development, and October's Resident Meeting agenda.

NEIGHBORHOOD:

1. BREWSTER THORNTON ARCHITECTURAL GROUP (BTAG) UPDATE:

- BTAG will no longer be responsible for the Transformation Plan submission as OHC and Utile Designs will provide this activity. BTAG is responsible, however, for the Olneyville Square building façade designs. Their focus will shift from the Manton Heights corridor to the Square specifically. Their facades will include building concepts, estimates for investments, and business owner options.

2. CITY OF PROVIDENCE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING UPDATE:

- The five corridor study is underway. Manton Heights' corridor transit analysis is complete (including employers, businesses, and cultural component). A draft of the community hubs and gateways was discussed (map attached with email).
- A draft of the cultural assets within one half mile of the corridor was completed as the local art will be incorporated into proposed improvements (draft attached with email). There will be a public meeting in September for Corridor Study updates.
- Urban Land Institute's team will be visiting Rhode Island next week and conducting 4 sessions with coordination as the primary goal of the visit.

After attending the CNI/UNCA forum, Richard W. of the PHA asked if the Olneyville neighborhood survey results were being used to make decisions throughout the planning process. Many principals stated that the data related to Olneyville included multiple surveys, needs assessments, various in-depth studies and research conducted by the principal organizations. There was some consensus that the abundance of data collected in the various documents should be compiled into one document thereby making it easier to realize the foundation of the grant activities and outcomes.

HOUSING:

UTILE DESIGNS PRELIMINARY PLANNING DISCUSSION:

- Utile Designs is researching the Manton Heights land including the adjacent land of the Imperial Knife site as a blank slate as it relates/connects with the surrounding community and address the expectations and feasibility of unit density. This is to be done with the primary goal of limiting the site's isolation. The density will be higher closer to Manton Avenue and gradually diminish as it moves away from Manton Avenue downhill toward the bike path.

- Utile Design's initial ideas include a mixed income development with no loss of public housing units. The relocation sites may include 1 or 2 large developments and area foreclosures.

LOCAL SUPPORT INITIATIVE CORPORATION (LISC) UPDATE:

- Ms. Howard announced that LISC's national programs are strategizing way in which they can be of added value to local sites who are working on Choice Neighborhood Initiatives. Vince O'Donnell of the Housing Preservation Unit is responsible to determine the best use of LISC national programs and asked to attend a meeting in Rhode Island. Ms. Howard asked that principals alter the regular CNI meeting schedule to accommodate a meeting with Mr. O'Donnell so that he can better assess the CNI team's needs. The principals agreed to meet on September 28, 2012 at 9 a.m., at PHA (100 Broad Street).
- Ms. Howard stated that various improvements at the William D'Abate School were planned with LISC and City funds.

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

- **PRINCIPALS' MEETINGS:** The next Principals' Meeting will be on September 28, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. The location will beRegular 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 and reported to the PHA for documentation.

CONFERENCE CALLS WITH HUD CHOICE TEAM:

- Ms. Clayton announced that the Choice Neighborhood Initiative Conference has been confirmed and announced for November 28th and 29th of 2012. Further information and link will become available in the near future.
- HUD members gave principals feedback on the Transformation Plan Outline submitted on 6/29/12. Written feedback will be provided by HUD in a letter format in the near future. HUD's verbal feedback was given in three categories: Housing, Neighborhood, and People. The overall consensus of HUD team members was that the outline did contain more information that was required for that particular outline, but that the information's presentation was found to be somewhat disjointed and much of the information was overlapping in nature. Moreover, the overarching element or evidence of comprehensive planning seemed to be lacking (even though they realize that the Providence team has wonderful activities happening in Olneyville).
- A new outline is due on 9/27/12 and the principals are confident that the extensive material/details collected coupled with how these valuable activities tie together will be clearly demonstrated in their September submission to address these slight deficiencies.
- Ms. Sanzaro mentioned that various Transformation Grant budget line items are in need of adjusting/being moved but this should be addressed when the PHA's Interim Executive Director is appointed (expected to be in September). Ms. Devine expressed PHA's interest in their staff attending the upcoming CNI Conference in November of 2012.

The next meeting will be Friday, September 28, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. at PHA Board Room (100 Broad Street).