



New Bern Housing Authority and the City of New Bern

**CHOICE NEIGHBORHOODS PLANNING GRANT**  
**Trent Court/Craven Terrace/Greater Five Points Neighborhood**

**Economic Development Working Group**  
Tuesday, April 28 at 4 pm at Development Services Offices

**Meeting Minutes**

**1. Attendees:** Vana Prewitt, Jeff Ruggieri, Cindy Blot, Deedra Durocher, Ron Cox, Roger Bellamy, Melvin Cooper, Jim Bisbee, Michaele Watson, Alana Gentry, Bruce Simmon, Jamara Wallace, Bill Brennan, Susan Namowicz.

**2. Handouts:** Minutes from April 14, 2015 and revised Strategy Matrix.

**3. Review of last meeting minutes:** Approved

**4. General Discussion:**

- We discussed the need to identify funding sources. Cindy and Jim met with Golden Leaf for prosperity funds.
- Cindy reviewed the strategy matrix and asked for comments. The group asked how the goals and strategies were accumulated and Cindy stated through emails, our meetings and word of mouth. The subject of community involvement was brought up again and much discussion on how participation could be increased. Cindy informed the group of the June 4<sup>th</sup> CNI Community Day.
- A participant wanted to discuss an article on how black men, all over the country, are not being involved in community decisions and Cindy instructed him that this discussion is not for this group. Several others spoke up that the Community Black Council's proposal has never been discussed since the first meeting when it was brought up. Again it was suggested we work on goals next and incorporate their ideas then. The following goals were established after much discussion and many ideas written on poster paper on the wall.

**5. Goals Discussed**

Some goals discussed included phrases such as: To create or maintain a self-sustaining community; To keep the money in the community through diversified employment base; bartering.

**6. Actual Goals Set**

- **New business start-ups in the CNI area.**
- **Create and maintain a "Self-Sufficient" community owned by residents**
- **Lower unemployment rate; increase income**
- **Market and support the area**

## **7. One-Stop Resource Center**

- Discussion around asking faith-based organizations to assist with re-entry to jobs, such as the SEEDS program, for individuals who have been incarcerated or a type of one-stop resource center where, regardless of an individual's needs, they can be assisted immediately with classes, information or redirected to a resource.

## **8. New Mission Statements**

- There was no time to review the mission statements that had been submitted but Cindy Blot asked for participants to email or let her know of their mission statement ideas before the next meeting.

## **9. Next steps or proposed agenda items for next meeting:**

EJP/Goody Clancy Visit at May 6, Wednesday, 2-3:30 pm meeting, Development Services location.

CNI Community Day planning-June 4, 2015, 4-7 pm at Henderson Park & Stanley White Recreation Center.

Next Meeting Dates:

Wednesday, May 6, 2-3:30 pm and

Tuesday, May 12, 4:00 pm

Development Services Conf Room