



## **Minutes of The CNI Economic Development Working Group Meeting**

**March 3, 2015, 2:00pm  
Stanley White Recreation Center**

**Attendees:** Jeff Ruggieri, Lora Wilson, Sherri Midgett, Bruce Simmon, Ron Cox, Roger Bellamy, Melven Cooper, Michael Rose Watson, Paul Chang, Corrinne Corr, Deedra Durocher, Jim Bisbee, Vana Prewitt, Dawn Baldwin-Gibson, Laura Thompson, Jamie Thompson, Perry Bosmajian, Ronnie Lovick, William Brennan

**Handouts:** Grocery Store map  
Amenities map  
Econ Development Study Exec Summary

### **Review of Existing Conditions:**

- Grocery store
  - Add neighborhood Walmart
  - Add L&N Mini Mart – convenience store
  - Ms. Sherry - why isn't the local market on Guion Street recognized?
- General comments
  - We already have some of this currently, seems that we are going backwards on some of these subjects.

### **Concerns regarding Community Outreach and Engagement:**

- Many elderly people reside in Greater Duffyfield area. They do not care about computers.
- Get a team, start at the cemetery, start at Goldsboro/Kinston street.
- Get personal – have to with the seniors.
- Best way to get sense of true needs of community is through conversation.
- The people do not feel invested in this process and it makes people defensive in these conversations.
- Citizens want people to listen more, judge them less and help them.

### **Concerns regarding City and Neighborhood Economic Development:**

- New policies are needed. Policies got us into this. The problem needs to be dealt with. When was the last time someone who doesn't live in a black community drove into a black neighborhood and spent money at a black store?
- What is the City of New Bern doing? Everything outward-focused, not inward.

- What about empty space? Fleet Street – George Street?
- Incentives for outside people coming in? For small entrepreneurs, small local business owners?
- None of the people from here got called for interviews or hired for other initiatives.
- Five Points and Broad Street used to be lit up – had doctors, gas stations, laundry mat

**Questions and Ideas:**

- How do resources like CDFI come into play for true economic development? Why can't people tap into these resources? People who are willing to do research, do start-ups here.
- What about establishing a co-op, selling shares, leveraging local agriculture, creating jobs, increasing access to healthy food, comprehensive solutions.

**Next meeting:** March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at 4:00pm in the Development Services Conference room located at 303 First Street.