



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 14 at 4 pm at Development Services Offices

Meeting Minutes

- 1. Attendees:** Dawn Baldwin Gibson, Susan Namowicz, Melvin Cooper, Roger Bellamy, Jim Bisbee, Mickey Miller, Vana Prewitt, Jamara Wallace, Bruce Simmon, Lora Wilson*, Clarence Monroe*, Ron Cox, Jamie Thompson, Joe Mansfield, Deedra Durocher, Virginia Stanley*, Robert Johnson*, Dorian Daniels*
- 2. Handouts:** Minutes from March 31, 2015, New Bern Choice Neighborhoods Strategy Matrix, sample vision statements, sample matrices
- 3. Intro:** *New members were welcomed and thanked for improving the grant community's representation
- 4. Review of last meeting minutes:** Approved
- 5. General Discussion:**
 - Dawn suggested inviting Dr. James Johnson, author of "Economic Impact on the Asset-Based Community Development Project" whose research is well known on urban investment. He can discuss "Innovation Cafes" and ways to gather more information from the community. He has been invited to attend in May to discuss ways to build on existing sense of community within the local community.
 - It was also suggested to invite Dr. John Perkins, Civil Rights Advocate and Leader, to attend in September 2015.
- 6. CNI Strategy Matrix:**
 - Several people discussed the strategy matrix as not meeting the requirements for HUD because there were no defined outcomes with figures and percentages.
 - Healthy discourse followed regarding whether the community was represented when determining the need of the proposed business accelerator and its site.
 - Melvin Cooper spoke of the proposed accelerator being located outside the red zone known as the CNI community and asked if another site could be proposed and used for more of what is needed, such as education, before business accelerator.
 - Susan Namowicz proposed the City of New Bern's Community Resource Center, located in the heart of the CNI community. Dawn mentioned it is known as the "McCotter house" and she agreed it was centrally located and easy access to neighborhoods.
 - Discussion followed that there is mixed messages coming from the community and more need to be invited and involved and how can this group reach out for more participation in order to accomplish the matrix.
 - Susan suggested more churches attend and spread the word and through Board of Aldermen

meeting updates.

- Jill Thompson suggested the “Business Women’s Mentoring Group” at the hospital.
- Vana Prewitt insisted the matrix was constructed without having the goals defined by HUD standards and requirements.

7. Reviewed Three Most Critical Economic Development Needs:

- Entrepreneurial job creation in the CNI community
- Mentoring/Collaboration
- Living Wage paying jobs

8. New Vision/Mission Statement:

- Dawn asked for words or phrases to define our purpose or mission.
- Susan suggested “To Improve the living standards of the CNI community by mentoring, in order to achieve living wages and create entrepreneurial opportunities.”
- Vana Prewitt stated that the mission statement was a good start before trying to discuss goals.
- Other ideas included: establish control and privileges within; improve infrastructure; attract outside investment; keeping home ownership.
- Lora Wilson spoke and asked for assistance with starting her small business needs. She is a Craven Terrace community resident and came to the meeting with the purpose to be engaged in the conversation of entrepreneurship and small business lending.
- Jamara Wallace said we need a way to engage the community and have more of their direct input through something called a “charrette” which is various local mini meetings with local community members to ask their input and thoughts on what they need. These mini meetings would be a good way to communicate to the CNI community that “anything worth having is worth working for,” commented Dawn.

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

- Dawn requested everyone write a two sentence mission statement and bring along to the next meeting.
- She ended the meeting with announcing that EJP and Goody Clancy, the CNI consultants, will be in New Bern, NC on May 6th and want to meet with the Economic Development Committee at 2:00.

10. Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, April 28
4:00 pm
Development Services Conf Room, 303 First St.