



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
Wednesday, May 12 at 4:00 pm at Development Services Offices

Meeting Minutes

- 1. Attendees:** Dawn Baldwin-Gibson (co-lead), Cindy Blot (co-lead), Jeff Ruggieri, Mickey Miller, Bruce Simmon, Bill Brennan, Dorian Daniels, Vana Prewitt, Lorelei Schaffhausen, Deedra Durocher, Ron Cox, Roger Bellamy, Melvin Cooper, Jim Bisbee, Virginia Stanley,
- 2. Handouts:** Agenda
Minutes from May 6 meeting
Revised strategy matrix (2 versions)
- 3. Review of last meeting minutes:** Approved
- 4. General discussion:** the group discussed the challenges of opening new grocery store in grant community. This led to discussion of urban farming, fresh food, food-mobiles, Genesis 457 CDC's food distribution program, and "wrap-around power center" (co-locating support services, food, childcare, education, and clinical services in one location).
- 5. Matrix discussion:** the only work group member to provide input was Vana Prewitt; her suggested edits were reviewed. The question was raised whether the city market/maker space and business accelerator are appropriate strategies or whether they should be taken off the matrix. Are these tools of benefit to the grant community or is there a perception that they're just being used to attract resources? This led to a discussion of where/how community residents traditionally get assistance and advice about business start-ups and the role of faith leaders as mentors and conduits into a network of other resources. Is the accelerator geared at too high a level for residents who need assistance with employability skills? How do we market these tools in the grant community and ensure they have access? Cindy urged everyone to attend the accelerator meeting at the Chamber on June 10 at 5 pm.
- 6. Homework:** time being short, the group has 72 hours to review the matrix versions and email their recommendations/edits to Cindy.

7. Genesis 457/Faith Connection Program: Dawn Baldwin Gibson reminded the group that Dr. John Perkins, a noted civil rights leader in community development and reconciliation will be in New Bern on Sep 25-26. This will be a very exciting program with great potential to help New Bern come together as one community.

8. Choice Community Day: Dawn has arranged for up to 1000 bags of food distribution from the Little Red Bookmobile. The group discussed several interactive ways of getting community feedback including asking questions along the line of “What type of businesses do you want to see in the community and what will you do to help make that happen?” A dot survey was also discussed. Methods to be finalized at next meeting.

9. Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 26 at 4 pm
Stanley White Recreation Center