



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, May 26th at 4 pm at Stanley White Recreation Center

Meeting Minutes

- 1. Attendees:** Cindy Blot, Robert Johnson, Melvin Cooper, Dorian Daniels, Michaele Rose Watson, Bruce Simmon, Roger Bellamy, Vana Prewitt, M. Luther Hill, Deedra Durocher, Bill Brennan, Erlinda C. Dobson, Ronnie Lovick and Susan Namowicz.
- 2. Handouts:** Agenda, Minutes from May 12, 2015, 2 versions of revised Strategy Matrices.
- 3. Review of last meeting minutes:** Approved
- 4. General Discussion:**
 - June 4th is CNI Community Day at Stanley White Rec Center. There was much discussion regarding the name and whether to delete the CNI initials or the wording Choice Neighborhood. No decision was made. Follow up discussion regarding whether there was going to be any food at the Community Day. Some agreed food attracts more people to attend. Erlinda Dobson, of AME Zion Church, felt food did not need to be used as a lure and people would come regardless in order to learn more of services and activities in their community.
 - The suggestion was given and it was agreed to have a table with 2 stand-up poster boards titled:
 1. Current Ideas
 2. Your New Ideas
 - Ask participants their ideas and to write on the board. Residents will be suspicious so be engaged in communication.
 - Be sure and address questions the participants have about CNI and let them know that their ideas will be brought back to the committee meetings.
 - Pastor Robert Johnson volunteered to spread the word about Community Day.
 - There is a Police Neighborhood Walk on May 29 which will also be a good time to share the Community Day flyers.
 - We need to be intentional at inviting residents to come to the committee meetings for their input. Cindy Blot said these plans and programs are to get other grant funds regardless if CHOICE approves more grants to the Housing Authority or not.
 - Independent Grocer's concept was discussed. It takes approx. \$2.9M to start this venture. Only needs one person to step up to start and facilitate a grocery business decision. Problem is there is not enough population to support even a small grocery store.

- Pastor Robert Johnson said majority of residents don't have transportation to get to the Walmart. Groups need to speak to Craven County Board of Commissioners to move to expand CARTS program to travel to CCCC, food stores, doctor's appointments, etc.
- Pastor Dorian Daniels suggested a co-op grocery store owned by the people. Mentor needed to have the grocery co-op startup. "Trinity Café" was mentioned. Even if there is a Neighborhood Store, what kind of things do residents want to buy?
- Pastor Johnson lived in the community for 35 years and said the "Handy Mart" is all that comes to the community. He's concerned that "better" food is not close and available. Ideas of a mobile food market were discussed.

5. Wrap-up

It was voted that Cindy will consolidate the various strategy matrices for the group and have ready to show at Community Day on June 4th. Cindy asked for participants to volunteer and there were a show of hands of who would be available.

6. Next Meeting Date:

Wednesday, June 8, 4:00 PM, Stanley White Recreation Center