



New Bern Housing Authority and the City of New Bern

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

Housing Development Task Force

Wednesday, April 8 at 3:00 pm at Craven Terrace

Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Dee Meadows, Antonio Brown, Cathy Wright-Dixon, Charles McDaniel, Tyechia Buck, Seana Spicer, Eula LeGrande, Carrie McCourman, Cheryl Reed, Lynne Mendes, Robert Benjamin (new attendee), Brad Sceviour, Fern Cotton, Pete Monte, Mary Anna Newman, Michael Avery, Tim Jedrey, Stephanie Crosby, Tracey Duncan (new attendee), Martin Blaney, Kevin Robinson, Tharesa Lee, Mickey Miller, Kathy Adolph (9 housing residents, 2 grant community residents, 13 other).

1. Welcome & Introductions: Mr. Blaney welcomed everyone, provided perspective on distinction between RAD and CNI and how both are great opportunities for New Bern. Introduced Ms. Miller and Ms. Lee as part of CNI team, and introduced Ms. Adolph and Ms. Reed as facilitators.

2. Opening Remarks & Ground Rules: Ms. Adolph made brief opening remarks; Ms. Reed reviewed the ground rules from the last meeting.

3. Review Minutes of Last Meeting: Attendees took a few minutes to read minutes. There were no questions about the minutes.

4. Hopes and Fears Review: At the last meeting, the group was divided into six teams. Every person wrote their hopes for the future of public housing and their concerns or fears about the future of public housing on blank notes and assembled them by table. They were then read aloud. At this meeting, because we had a small crowd, the six teams were combined into two teams.

- Team 1 was asked to sum up what they learned or gleaned from re-reading and studying the assembled hopes. Response – the sense of community appeared repeatedly in the hopes. Team 1 developed the theme of community into a vision statement: “To build upon our existing sense of community with housing options, safe streets, retail, access to services, and something that is physically attractive in order to take pride in the greater community.”

- Team 2 was asked to summarize all of the fears. Response – that change isn't going to happen, that people will get let down. These responses led to discussion about how CNI is a fight for resources in order to provide a better life for our children.

5. Trent Court Residents' Perspective: Ms. Reed was asked to summarize what we learned when we gathered with Trent Court residents March 16-19. She summarized their concerns as

- Will CNI be similar to RAD where all that is financially feasible is interior renovations?
- Will older residents be forced to move away if they want to stay on site?
- Are Trent Court residents being forced to move from the waterfront property so someone else can have it because it's more valuable?
- Residents don't really understand how Section 8 vouchers work. 30% of them said they would be willing to take a voucher, but they need to have better information. Brief discussion about vouchers and how we will have Twin Rivers Opportunities at future meeting to help better understand voucher program.

6. Assessing Our Learning & Building Our Knowledge Base: Group took short quiz to see if they could answer basic questions about Choice Neighborhoods from the last meeting (see attached), using summary pages from the HUD CNI NOFA. Group discussed what HUD housing objectives means to us – building housing that is well-managed, financially viable, mixed-income, energy efficient, sustainable, accessible, and free from discrimination. This led to discussion of current housing in flood plain not being sustainable or viable and possible options for moving from floodplain.

7. Next Steps: Running short on time, we promised to end at 2 hours. Discussion on vision and market study analysis will continue next meeting. Everyone was thanked for their attendance, given a copy of CNI working groups schedule and encouraged to attend other working groups.

8. Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 22
3-5 pm
Trent Court (Moving back to Trent Court as Craven Terrace hosts after-school program and is not available)

Attachment:
Quiz

**Choice Neighborhood Initiative
Housing Task Force
March 25, 2015**

Building our Knowledge Base

Choice Neighborhoods is focused on three core goals:
What are they?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

What four components comprise the Housing goal?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Name four of the the surrounding neighborhoods to Trent Court?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.