

## Neighbors United Meeting Summary - May 28, 2009

### Attending

1. Dana Givens, *Mosaic Community Development*
2. Cindy Gladwell, *First Baptist Church*
3. Gary Gladwell, *First Baptist Church*
4. Christian Gray, *Mosaic Community Development*
5. Andy Gustafson, *First Presbyterian Church*
6. Brittany Hanson, *Mosaic Community Development*
7. Louise Jeffrey, *First Unitarian Church*
8. Kevin Marik, *Metropolitan Community Church*
9. Pr. Kip Mickelson, *First Baptist Church*
10. Rev. Kate Rohde, *First Unitarian Church*
11. Rev. Jonathan Sloan, *First Presbyterian Church*
12. Dr. Russ Smith, *University of Nebraska, Omaha*
13. Bruce Wallace, *First Presbyterian Church*

### Overview

- Members of the Park Avenue faith community met on May 28, 2009 at First Presbyterian Church. Drinks and cookies were graciously provided by FPC church members.
- The focus of the meeting was to discuss the CDBG proposal prepared by Neighbors United participants and to organize a Community Meal Volunteer Feedback Forum where volunteers and partners can meet and discuss happenings and concerns of the Community Meal initiative.
- A plea was put out to find funding for a salaried position for Brittany Hanson; her AmeriCorps Vista term will be completed in mid-August.
- Meeting agendas (attached) and copies of Section III of the CDBP proposal were distributed, brief introductions were made, and the meeting was facilitated by Brittany Hanson and Dr. Russell Smith

### CDBG Application Overview

#### *Section III*

The project is designed for the following outcomes:

- Case Management, information, and referral services for 200+ individuals or families.
- Long term connections and relationships with NU faith community members building personal growth.
- Neighborhood advocacy services provided to connect Park Avenue residents to local community development, housing rehabilitation, and related programs.

- Capacity Building support provided for Park Avenue area community based organizations. Including faith community, neighborhood associations, schools, businesses, and developers.
- Administrative and staff support provided for NU community meal program feeding 175 people a week, 52 weeks a year.
- A store front community and economic development service facility will be established in the neighborhood.
- The proposal includes a request for funds to lease or rent a building, and for 1.5 staff salaries.

### *Potential Center Sites*

There are three potential sites for a center that are established in the neighborhood:

- SITE 1: *825 Park Avenue* – Currently vacant, development partner will make repairs/improvements to the property for it to be rentable. Recently used as a church, 1400 square feet of space on main floor. ½ blocks south of the intersection of Park Avenue and Leavenworth. Street parking available.
- SITE 2: *3119 Leavenworth* – Currently vacant and needs repair. Constructed as a home, but is a commercial strip zoned industrial with 1700 square feet of space. Limited parking available. Development partner will make repairs and improvements to the property. Located at the intersection of St. Mary’s Ave. and Leavenworth.
- SITE 3: *2709 Dewey Street* – Development partner has title to property. Rezoning would be necessary if the building were to function as a storefront for project. Property has 2,000 square feet of basement space. It would be remodeled for rental to the project. Street parking is available.

### *Meet Andy Gustafson*

Andy Gustafson attends First Presbyterian and is a neighborhood friendly developer.

- Project Development Partner
- Has identified the three sites suitable for a storefront location
- Current owner of site 3
- Has approached owners of site 1 and 2 about purchasing them

### **MCD Staffing Discussion/Brainstorm**

Brittany Hanson’s Americorps VISTA term ends in late August 2009.

- She is looking to continue working with MCD and in the Park Avenue neighborhood.
- MCD is exploring funding ideas to move her to fully salaries position.

- Meeting participants discussed potentially having some of the groups help fund her salary.
- Talked about fundraisers, taking up donations, and mission-board funding.
- Please contact Christian Gray at [christian@mosaiccd.org](mailto:christian@mosaiccd.org) or (402) 933-6672 with any ideas or offers.

#### **Discussion - Meeting for Community Meals Debriefing and Concerns**

- Need to assemble a Community Meal volunteers and partners to debrief and brainstorm CM happenings and challenges.
- Some of the concerns that will be discussed are: (a) having more committed hospitality volunteers, (b) designated volunteer duties, (c) safety and security, and (d) communication.
- FBC will open church for the meeting.
- During the meeting the basic information manual will be reviewed.
- The meeting will take place Tuesday June 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm at FBC.

#### **Wrap Up**

- CDBG Application due June 1, 2009
- Community Meal - Every Saturday 11:30 - 1:00; First Baptist Church
- Next Neighbors United meeting - June 25, 11:00-1:00; First Presbyterian Church
- July Neighbors United Meeting - July 23, 11:00-1:00; Location TBD