

West Central Neighborhood Alliance
Strategic Planning Workshop (Part 2 of 3)
Tuesday, July 21, 2009—Southside Baptist Church

People Attending: Marie Greenhaugen, Fred Kavanaugh, Kathleen Cowens, Mike & Barbara Clawson, Thom Brandt, Travis Bosserman, James & Anne Miller, Thomas Lane, Myron Rhoades, Marc Schedlbauer, Joshua & Melissa Clifton, Pastor Wayne Barron, Melissa Millsap, Phyllis Netzer, Jack Pugh, David Rhodes, Krist Carlson, Wayne & Susan Rader, Carol Nachbar, Rusty Worley, President-West Central Neighborhood Alliance, June Hethcoat, City of Springfield Health Dept., Janet Hicks, City of Springfield Health Dept., Jason Friend, Springfield Police Dept., Greg Higdon, Springfield Police Dept., Johnnie Burgess, City of Springfield Prosecutor, Randal Whitman, City of Springfield Planning Dept., Lisa Taylor, Caring Communities, and Bob Horton, Urban Neighborhoods Alliance.

Recap of June 16 Meeting

A brief recap of the June 16 meeting was given and notes from that meeting were distributed. The June 16 meeting was more of a historical perspective of the neighborhood with regards to demographics, past neighborhood plans, the two neighborhood elementary schools, Caring Communities and finally, what was working and not working in the neighborhood.

Police Presence in the Neighborhood

Officer Jason Friend, West Central's COP Officer, shared with everyone the crime statistics for West Central that shows the most reported calls for service are: check a person; check well-being; assaults; disturbances; and domestic disturbances/domestic assaults. Officer Friend stressed to everyone that the only way he can help in matters is if he receives calls from the neighborhood. He also stressed that there may be some cases that are ongoing where he may not be able to release certain information. His direct line is 874-2186.

Randall Whitman, City of Springfield Planning Department, also talked about the West Central Neighborhood Stabilization grant that will help with improving the neighborhoods. It is a pro-active grant that will help to clean up blight in the neighborhood and also help reduce crime and improve safety.

Code Enforcement/Neighborhood Teams

June Hethcoat, City of Springfield Health Inspector, reviewed what her department does for the improvement of the neighborhood. The health department's main goal is "helping people live longer, healthier, happier lives." This is done by monitoring the health of our community, identifying and responding to health threats, providing timely and accurate information, enforcing laws that protect health and providing quality services to prevent and control disease. Pictures were shown of violations to various health ordinances.

Office Friend and June Hethcoat answered questions from the audience.

Team Breakouts—Creating Priorities

Everyone was divided into four teams and asked to identify priorities for the neighborhood to address based on what they had heard and information from the first meeting.

Team #1 Priorities:

- ✓ Loitering @ Kum n' Go
- ✓ Monitor speed limits (State/Broadway)
- ✓ Enforcing sex offender law (housing)
- ✓ Drug activity
- ✓ Cat control
- ✓ More social events

Team #2 Priorities:

- ✓ Rental properties w/uninvolved landlords
- ✓ Animal issues (barking dogs, cats, inadequate laws)
- ✓ Crime & drugs, vandalism
- ✓ Noise (cars parties, fireworks out of season, parking in alleyways)
- ✓ Weeds

Team #3 Priorities:

- ✓ Continue neighborhood clean-ups
- ✓ Neighborhood teams
- ✓ Rental property—registration, inspection, contact info
- ✓ Safety & security—real & perceived

Team #4 Priorities:

- ✓ Increased landlord responsibility—training, impact on neighborhood
- ✓ Alley clean-up
- ✓ Public intoxication/criminal; behavior, vagrancy, peace disturbance

Team leaders shared with everyone their priorities. After talking about these, each attendee was given five dots to rank their concerns and priorities. They would be given the option of placing 1-5 dots on the priorities. A map of the neighborhood had been prepared and everyone was given another smaller dot to identify where they either lived or had property in the neighborhood.

The rankings of the priorities were as follows:

Safety and Security (59)

- ✓ Drug activity (15)
- ✓ Public intoxication/criminal; behavior, vagrancy, peace disturbance (12)
- ✓ Crime & drugs, vandalism (10)
- ✓ Loitering @ Kum n' Go (6)
- ✓ Noise (cars, parties, fireworks out of season, parking in alleyways) (6)
- ✓ Safety & security—real & perceived (5)
- ✓ Monitor speed limits (State/Broadway) (4)
- ✓ Enforcing sex offender law (housing) (1)

Rental Properties (34)

- ✓ Rental properties w/uninvolved landlords (20)
- ✓ Increased landlord responsibility—training, impact on neighborhood (11)
- ✓ Rental property—registration, inspection, contact info (3)

Image Enhancement/Code Enforcement (27)

- ✓ Continue neighborhood clean-ups (12)
- ✓ Weeds (4)
- ✓ Alley clean-up (4)
- ✓ Cat control (3)
- ✓ Neighborhood teams (3)
- ✓ Animal issues (barking dogs, cats, inadequate laws) (1)

Social (6)

- ✓ More social events (6)

At the third and final workshop, goals and objectives to address these priorities, action steps and ways to evaluate these action steps will all be identified.

Using SMART Objectives framework will be followed:

- Specific: The objectives should be responsive to questions such as: “at what?”, “for whom?” and “by how much?”
- Measurable: The objectives should be measurable or assessable to facilitate tracking and learning from them.
- Aggressive yet Achievable: The objectives should be aggressive so as to stretch what we can do, but they need to be achievable so as not to set efforts up for failure.
- Relevant: The objectives should pertain directly to the challenges articulated by goals and contribute to the vision.
- Time-bound: The objectives should not be completely open-ended with respect to time and should be crafted by answering “by when?”