

## Fifth Town Hall Meeting Minutes

Thursday, July 26, 2018, 6:00pm

Location: Watson Grove Missionary Baptist Church

Total of twenty-seven (18) attendees

**Meeting facilitated by:** Jeff Hall, Buck Dellinger, Kia Jarmon and Kathryn Withers

### **Meeting Business**

- Welcome and introductions (Jeff Hall)
  - The Town Hall was kicked off with welcoming all in attendance.
- Opening Remarks (Buck Dellinger)
  - Dellinger welcomed attendees and thanked them for their attendance and participation. Remarks included stressing that while we are a year into the process, work is still being done to establish a detailed concept plan and that continued participation is needed. Dellinger outlined MDHA's vision to recapitalize aging family properties, and highlighted the other work that has been done through Envision Cayce and Envision Napier and Sudekum.
- Planning Process Overview and Recap (Jeff Hall)
  - Hall again welcomed attendees and offered appreciation to Watson Grove for providing the venue for the Town Hall. Hall reminded attendees of the parameters set by the MDHA Board of Commissioners, which included the strict one for one replacement of the 380 units at Edgehill Apartments, the revitalization of this property to result in a mixed-income, mixed-use community, and that recommendations from this planning process will be provided to the board for final approval. Hall reviewed the three planning phases and discussed the make-up of the Community Advisory Group, and the three Work Groups – People, Housing and Neighborhood. In addition, Hall reviewed the development map with attendees noting the focus for the planning would be on the 380 units at Edgehill Apartments, with residents at Gernert Studio Apartments included within the planning process. Hall highlighted the updated website, as well as noting that the upcoming work group meeting and design workshop in August.
- Resident Proctor Testimonials (Shirley Trotter and Sherie Clark)
  - Ms. Trotter and Ms. Clark shared their experiences serving as resident proctors and ambassadors for the Envision Edgehill Apartments process. They remarked on both the positive impact they have seen engaging residents over the past year, as well as the only challenges faced with both residents and non-residents surrounding trust and love. Both called for unity as the process continues and we look towards the future of Edgehill Apartments.

- People Work Group Update (Jeff Hall)
  - Hall provided an update of the People Work Group, with meetings held in April and June to review needs assessment data and determine both issues and possible solutions. Hall facilitated notes included in the appended PowerPoint presentation, stressing that across the areas of employment, healthcare, community safety and education, access and awareness were the common themes with the need for more supportive and direct service programming within the community.
- Visioning Exercise Recap (Kia Jarmon – MEPR Agency)
  - Jarmon recapped the visioning workshop that occurred at the June Joint Housing and Neighborhood Work Group. Jarmon outlined common words and themes, with community, unity, love and sustainability occurring repeatedly in several vision statements created by the groups in attendance. Jarmon stated she would continue to craft the vision statement based on what was created at that meeting as well as input provided in subsequent meetings in order to present a final vision in August.
- Concept Development Presentation (Kathryn Withers – Barge Design Solutions)
  - Withers facilitated an overview of the visioning and conceptual planning that has occurred to date. As outlined in the appended presentation, Withers outlined the Past, Present and Future activity that took place in January 2018; the Visioning Workshop that took place in March 2018; and the Lego massing exercises that took place for both adults and kids in April 2018; and the Concept Options Report Card Activity that was facilitated at the Southside Bless Fest in June 23, 2018; inside Edgehill and Gernert Management Offices on July 2, 3 and 5, 2018; and at the Progressive Baptist Community Day on July 14, 2018. Withers noted that 221 individuals participated in the activity, with 66% preferring Option 1. Moving forward, Withers discussed that the design team would be further analyzing the work from the Concept Options Report Card Activity, identifying preferences/grading from the three options in order to establish two refined options. Residents and community members would have the opportunity to vote on the two refined options at a Joint Housing and Neighborhood working session on August 22, at Midtown Hills Police Precinct from 5:30 to 7 p.m. In addition to providing input on the two options, helping to select a final preferred option, participants on the 22<sup>nd</sup> will be able to provide additional input on connectivity, and park/open space.
- Concluding Remarks and Q&A facilitation (Jeff Hall)

**Q&A Topics Posed and Discussed:**

1. Are we aware of the efforts of some in the community to save the home site located on the park land near Murrell School, and how does that fit within this process?
  - a. (Jeff Hall): We are aware of those efforts. According to the last statement we have read from the Mayor’s office, he has stated that a public engagement process would be utilized to determine next steps for that land now that MNPS

has determined that the school would not be used moving forward. At this time, we have not received any further updates or information on next steps. If at any time MDHA is considered for land acquisition within our Envision planning processes, it would be incorporated into a public forum for discussion and planning.

2. (Summarized Comment from Brenda Morrow, RA President for Edgehill Apartments and Edgehill FRC): The resident proctors/ambassadors have done a great job in reaching people. We held a meeting with the residents before the process started and your list covers almost everything the residents asked for in that list. We do need to go beyond just a daycare and include a childhood development center in the community, providing comprehensive development for our children. Thanks again to the proctors for knocking on every door and reaching folks so they can participate. Thanks to Mr. Harbison and Jeff Hall for coming to our RA meeting last week and providing a great update.