

Vine City/Washington Park LCI Study

Steering Committee Meeting

January 15, 2009

Meeting Notes

Introduction and Welcome:

The meeting began with a brief introduction from Caleb Racicot of Tunnell-Spangler-Walsh, introducing the consultant team:

- Atlanta Regional Commission
 - LeVar Rice
- City of Atlanta
 - Garnett Brown
- Tunnell-Spangler-Walsh
 - Caleb Racicot
 - Woody Giles
- The Collaborative Firm
 - Jessica Guinn
 - Bryanca Colvin
- Contente Consulting
 - Contente Terry
- Croy Engineering
 - Dan Dobry
- Marketek
 - Melissa Mailloux

Overview of Planning Process and Study Area:

Caleb Racicot with TSW provided an introduction to the LCI program and the Vine City/Washington Park LCI study. The Vine City/Washington Park LCI covers over 750 acres of land, including 2 MARTA stations. The study area includes parts, if not all, of Simpson St., MLK Ave., J.E. Lowery Blvd., Ashview Heights, over to the Georgia Dome and World Congress Center.

Role of Steering Committee:

Caleb Racicot with TSW provided a brief account of the purpose for the steering committee. It is designed to direct the path of the project with community concerns and needs.

Suggestions made at this time are as follow:

- To effectively engross the community in this effort, a hand to hand process of communication should be implemented. Posters and handbills should saturate the community's churches, schools and community centers
- Suggested areas of improvement were blocked alleyways and reconsidering truck routes that currently run down Joseph E. Lowry Blvd. and other streets that run through neighborhoods.
- Considering the designated subareas, it was suggested that the Northside drive area to Maple St. be considered its own subarea.

Review of Public Meeting Schedule:

Community Workshop

Saturday, January 31, 2009

9:00 am - Noon

Morehouse College Leadership Center

Draft Plan Presentation

Thursday, February 19, 2009

6:30 - 8:00 pm

Hagar Palace

19 Joseph E. Lowery Blvd.

Final Plan Presentation

Thursday, March 19, 2009

6:30 - 8:00 pm

Hagar Palace

19 Joseph E. Lowry Blvd

It was suggested that to obtain a favorable turnout to the Community workshop, transportation should be provided. Suggested modes of transportation were the AUC Event van and/or a MARTA shuttle bus.

Review of Draft Workshop Agenda:

Resident James Doyle strongly recommended a workshop be added to the agenda on housing. He suggested that a seminar on housing will bring neighborhood stability which will maintain the quality of life sought through the LCI.

Other points made:

- * Most of the homes that are currently for sale require extensive rehabilitation. A suggestion was made to establish programs that would provide funds for home rehabilitation.
- * The City hopes to receive \$12-20 million from Neighborhood Stabilization Program for home rehab.
- * ADA has allocated funds to assist first-time homebuyers in Vine City/Washington Park neighborhoods.
- * Residents would like "neighbors" not investors/renters. Evicted renters often destroy homes.

Interviews:

The floor was opened to those interested in interviewing for various stakeholder positions.

Schedule next Steering Committee Meeting:

The next Steering Committee meeting will be announced at a later date.

Adjourn