

Cherry Hill & Westport Partnership

Minutes – August 6, 2008 [DRAFT]

Open Meeting – Topic: Turner Development Project

[Adopted TBD]

Community Members/Stakeholders In Attendance:

- [Sign-In Sheet attached](#)

Guests:

- Ms. Lori Toscano, Dept. of Health
- UniteHere Union representatives
- CPHA representatives

Tonight's Business: The meeting was kicked off by Greg Countess who stated that he was turning the meeting over to a community member – Ms. Cathy McClain to facilitate.

1. Ms. McClain introduced Ms. Lori Toscano of the Baltimore City Department of Health to make an announcement. Ms. Toscano announced that the Family Health Centers of Baltimore and the Cherry Hill Trust were awarded the Operation Safe Streets grant. She stated that the Mayor would be holding a press conference on Friday and that the news should not be widely disseminated until then.
2. Ms. McClain asked for following up from all who were working to set up the community meeting the Mayor and City Council President:
 - a. Mr. Michael Middleton discussed his efforts to invite the Mayor and City Council President. He stated that he had received confirmation from the City Council President for August 19, 2008 at 10:00am and that he received a negative reply from the Mayor stating that she would not be available on that date. Mr. Middleton was asked to prepare invitations (email, phone call and US mail) for City Agency Heads along with state and congressional representatives to attend the August 19th meeting.
 - b. Ms. McClain asked Ms. Linda Towe about complaints from a faction in Westport who were displeased that the meeting was being proposed for a location outside of Westport. Ms. Towe and Ms. Trueheart offered that the concern related to the meeting proposed by 10th District Councilman Ed Reisinger to hold the City Council Finance Committee public hearing regarding the recently introduced bills about Turner's project and not concerns about our joint communities meeting.
 - c. Ms. Towe offered to draft a letter to Westport stakeholders to invite them to attend the joint communities meeting on August 19, 2008. Several individuals volunteered to assist Ms. Towe in drafting the letter.

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- i. Ms. Jeaneatte Gilmore offered to distribute the letter as a product of the joint communities' coalition instead of it coming from the Westport Coalition only.
 - ii. Ms. Towe stated that she will additionally be preparing a Westport fact sheet to dispel rumors about community organizing initiatives and other activities related to the Turner Development project.
 - d. Mr. Middleton distributed a copy of the UMD law school prepared MOU for the 2 community groups to review and sign.
 - i. Mr. Countess suggested some changes in the sub-headings and additional elements to be included.
 - ii. UMD Law School will edit and revise the MOU based on input received from this meeting.
 - iii. The group discussed protocols and governance for the 2 groups to consider and it was agreed that the governance of the coalition would be led by the 2 communities and outside organizations would take on an associate membership role in support of the coalition. This approach will facilitate the addition of new associate members without impacting the governance (goals and objectives) of the coalition. Additional/new community groups can join their respective Westport or Cherry Hill umbrellas coalition organizations.
3. All agreed to meet again on August 13, 2008 at 4:00pm to identify the specific community benefits to be presented to the Mayor and City Council President.
4. All agreed that a flyer would be produced that will be distributed in both communities. Ms. Jeaneatte Gilmore will assemble a team to distribute the flyers house to house in both communities. Ms. Roxie Herbekian (UNITEHere) offered to provide workers to help with the distribution.
5. Ms. Kim Trueheart introduced Ms. Roxie Herbekian (UNITEHere) to provide an overview of the union and its mission. Ms. Herbekian stated that they were in discussions with Patrick Turner to get his endorsement on a labor agreement to allow hotel workers at the proposed new hotel to meet with the union and vote on whether they want to join the union. The discussions have not been fruitful to date. She stated that a key goal of the union is to obtain living wages and benefits for hotel workers in Baltimore, (many of them live in Westport and Cherry Hill).

Respectfully submitted,
Kim A. Trueheart