



STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

May 24, 2022
4:30pm to 6pm

AGENDA:

Introductions (4:30 – 4:40pm)
Project update (4:40 – 5:10pm)
Q&A (5:10 – 5:20pm)
Breakout Group 1 (5:10 – 5:25pm)
Breakout Group 2 (5:25 – 5:40pm)
Report out (5:40 – 5:55pm)
Next steps (5:55 – 6pm)

PRE-MEETING PROMPTS:

1. Stakeholder Interviews: We are conducting an analysis of existing programming and services within Jackson Ward and are hosting interviews with members of the community in June and July. **Do you know a stakeholder or service provider in Jackson Ward we can meet with?**
2. Early Action Activities: **Projects that reinforce the planning process through limited physical neighborhood improvements and use HUD funds for innovative solutions to neighborhood challenges, and must be completed within the first two years of the Grant. Examples:**
 - Reclaiming and recycling vacant property into community gardens, pocket parks, or farmers markets;
 - Beautification, placemaking, and community arts projects (signage, murals, sculptures, streetscaping, etc.);
 - Fresh food initiatives (farmers markets or mobile fresh food vendors);
 - Owner-occupied home or business façade improvement programs;
 - Gap financing for economic development projects that are ready to implement and have secured all other necessary funding.

We have \$200,000 set aside for this project. Do you have ideas for Early Action Activities? Do you have ideas for ways we can best engage the community in determining the best project?

ATTENDEES:

Eva Colen, COR Office of Children and Families
Donte McCutchen, Greater Mt. Moriah
Bree Duclos, STEP
Nannette Bailey, RPS Office of Engagement
Keshia Cummings, 2LOVE LLC
Kelli Rowan, COR Office of Equitable Transit and Mobility
Patrice Shelton, Community Health Worker RHHD

Robert Lester, Club 533
Priscilla Wright, COR Dept. of Parks and Recreation Facilities
David Lambert, Eye Que Optical
Dianne Wilmore, Northside Public Library
Dr. Sesha Joi Moon, JXN Ward
Billy McMullen, Community Member
Dr. Mark "Coach" James, ?

Planning Team Attendees:

Alicia Garcia, RRHA

Sheila Hill-Christian, RRHA

Maritza Mercado Pechin, COR Office of Equitable
Development

Yessenia Revilla, COR Office of Equitable
Development

Amy Popovich, RCHD

Jackie Lawrence, RCHD

Sherrell Thompson, RCHD, Gilpin Informed
Residents Coordinator

Shawn Balon, Engagement Consultant, Storefront for
Community Design

Danielle Lake, Planning Coordinator, LRK

MEETING NOTES:

What We've Done So Far:

- Branding + Website Launch: www.jacksonward.com
- Working Groups Kick Off: April 12, 2022
 - Still recruiting members to join: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8DMWTQ3>
- 2022 HUD Deliverables Progress:
 - the planning team has completed the HUD site visit in February, submitted an initial budget and schedule, and will continue to submit quarterly reports to HUD through out the process.
 - The primary deliverable this calendar year is the “Outline with Content” due in November. This will be a preliminary document that outlines the direction of the Community Plan based on feedback from Stakeholder Interviews, Residents and Community Engagement, Steering Committee and Working Group guidance, results from the Resident Assessment and Community Survey, Initial Market Assessments, and other analysis conducted by the Planning team.
- Gilpin Informed Residents:
 - The Health District has hired Sherrell Thompson as the Gilpin Informed Resident Coordinator
 - Sherrell updated the committee that 4 Gilpin Informed Residents (GIR) have been hired and undergoing background checks with the Health District. The GIR will be issued tablets starting Thursday to begin issuing the Resident Assessment.
- Resident Assessment was launched at the May 10th Resident Information Exchange Meeting. This survey is for Gilpin Residents only.
 - The online survey can be accessed here: [Gilpin Court Resident Assessment](#)
 - Paper surveys can be picked up, returned, or filled-out at the RRHA Property Management Office or the Gilpin Resource Center.

- Community Survey was launched at the May 12th Community Expo Meeting. This survey is for all Jackson Ward community members.
 - The online survey can be accessed here: [Jackson Ward Community Survey](#)
 - Paper surveys can be picked up, returned, or filled-out at the RRHA Property Management Office, Gilpin Resource Center, and Storefront for Community Design.

What We've Heard So Far:

- Maritza (COR) provided an overview of the May 10th Resident Information Exchange meeting and shared some of the feedback/FAQ during the gathering:
 - About 15 resident were in attendance at Fay Towers community room
 - More discussion about voucher process (better define terms and eligibility criteria)
 - Who will be providing wraparound services and what do they include
 - What does relocation assistance look like
 - Concerns about community conflict associated with relocation
 - How can we ensure amenities will be what residents want
- Bree Duclos (STEP) provided an overview on the Debrief session with Residents following the Resident Info Exchange Meeting:
 - what did you hear leaving this meeting as a resident?
 - Smaller gathering – send invitations following each meeting to meet
 - Questions about vouchers, shortage of land lords who accept vouchers
 - Frustration with relocation = vouchers?
 - Tension of tenant mistrust – what will the wraparound services be?
 - This has happened in the past, vouchers on waitlist
 - Data + action steps that residents can start with now – credit scores, proof of income (creative options – family sufficiency programs, rent freezes),
 - High emotion connected to this subject
 - Fight the myth that this is good news - be aware, plan and anticipate /restructure our words as this being good, but meet questions/concerns – walk alongside residents. Remind the planning team that this is home, community resources that we are tied to – relocation / displacement created triggers/trauma of being left behind – survival instincts coming out during discussions
 - Beware of history of flops in the past - Desi represents RRHA as a whole, represents an entity of distrust, don't engage with more defensiveness, HUD language, valid to feel the way they feel; help to translate what this planning process looks like
 - Residents want to be heard.

- Maritza (COR) provided an overview of the May 12th Community Expo meeting and shared some of the feedback/FAQ during the gathering:
 - About 40 attendees at the Hippodrome Theater
 - What does it mean to uplift current efforts in Jackson Ward
 - How does this project fit in with Reconnect Jackson Ward and Richmond300 – who is in charge? Who are the decision makers?
 - How will the plan reflect the historic legacy of Jackson Ward and Gilpin Court?
 - How do we address the consequence of historic redlining in this plan?

What's Next:

- Shawn (SFCD) provided an overview of the upcoming engagement activities through the summer and asked for suggestions or connections from the Steering Committee for food sponsorship and facilitation support.
- Listening Workshops
 - Resident Listening Workshop | June 14th at Fay Towers
 - Community Listening Workshop | June 16th at Gallery5
 - Draft Agenda for both:
 - 5:30-6: Refreshments + Input Stations (interactive boards)
 - 6-6:30: Presentation + Brief Q&A
 - 6:30-7:30: Facilitated Break Out Conversations
 - 7:30-7:45: Report Out Vision Statements from each group
 - 7:45-8: Next Steps + Input Stations
- Plan Workshops
 - Resident Plan Workshop | tentative date Aug. 2nd or Aug. 6th – location TBD
 - Community Plan Workshop | tentative date Aug. 13th or Aug. 20th – location TBD
 - Would like to make this meeting a fun event, preferably with food and activities for kids (grill out/bouncy houses/etc.)
 - Should it be associated with National Night Out?
- Danielle (LRK) provided clarification on the purpose of each of the proposed meetings (additional information provided below):
 - *June 2022 Resident Listening Workshop*: Concentrated discussions that (1) seek further input and provide an opportunity for residents to express any concerns surrounding the existing conditions of Gilpin Court and the overall CNP planning process; (2) review the project timeline and discuss feedback loop between residents, steering committee, and other groups in crafting the vision and

goals for the Community Plan; (3) present what information has already been gathered from Residents/Community/Stakeholders thus far; and (4) review next steps in the process for developing goals, strategies, and the final plan.

- *June 2022 Community Listening Workshop:* Similar format and purpose to Resident meeting above, but with a broader view towards the existing conditions, needs, and vision of the larger Jackson Ward neighborhood.
- *August 2022 Resident Plan Workshop:* Focused discussions about the physical plan possibilities of Gilpin Court that (1) Build an understanding of how families live at Gilpin Court; (2) identify possibilities for redevelopment of Gilpin; (3) generate ideas for new activities, services, safety, potential parks, and neighborhood amenities, etc.; and (4) review next steps in the process. Topics may also address the benefits of mixed-income communities, how to read design plans, and the importance of designing energy efficient housing, among others.
- *August 2022 Community Plan Workshop:* Similar format and purpose to Resident Plan meeting above, but with a broader view towards the physical plan elements throughout the larger Jackson Ward neighborhood.
- *November 2022 Alternatives Workshop:* Intended for members of the entire Jackson Ward Community (including Gilpin Court Residents), the Team will (1) present and confirm Plan Goals & Strategies developed based on engagement in the Fall and outcomes of Stakeholder interviews, Working Group meetings, and Steering Committee guidance; (2) present plan alternatives for discussion and feedback; and (3) review next steps in the process for the draft of the Community Plan.
- *February 2023 Draft Plan Workshop:* Intended for members of the entire Jackson Ward Community, the team will (1) present feedback and an updated draft of the Plan based on progress since the Alternatives Workshop in the Fall; (2) review goals in relation to the to-be-defined, but may include the following focus areas: *Health & Safety, Urban Design & Open Space, Education & Workforce Development, Business Growth & Economic Development, Transportation, Arts & Culture, Housing.*
- *May 2023 Draft Plan Presentation:* Intended for members of the entire Jackson Ward Community, the team will (1) present the status of the Community Plan; (2) review current proposals for the Action Activity for discussion and feedback; and (3) review next steps in the process for the Community Plan.

- *October 2023 Final Community Plan Presentation:* Intended for members of the entire Jackson Ward Community to celebrate the completion of the Community Plan and all the accomplishments achieved during the planning process. This final Open House will reflect and celebrate the accomplishments that have occurred during the “Doing While Planning” process, discuss progress on the Action Activities, focus on continued engagement, and walk through the implementation schedule for the strategies in the Community Plan and Action Activities. Ideally, this could align with broader community events.
- Stakeholder Interviews: to be hosted at Storefront for Community Design during the weeks of June 20th, July 11th, and July 18th.
 - Focus groups of 3-4 people
 - Neighborhood, People, Housing will hold up to 3 focus group meetings
- Working Groups Meeting
 - Scheduled for July 26th 5:30-7pm
 - Location TBD

Comments:

- Expect gatherings to grow, provide time and space to catch new residents up to speed on what has been discussed in previous meetings.
- Have a board about the history of Jackson Ward at meetings that address the legacy of the community
- Provide comment cards and develop an FAQ page for website and to be distributed during meetings
- Develop/share an infographic that better explains the housing choice options including the voucher process
- Provide childcare – it can be informal with pizzas and a movie in another room, or with worksheets/activities for kids to participate in
- Are there possibilities to sync up with a back-to-school event?
- Nannette offered that RPS works with 6 family liaisons in Gilpin that could help with childcare support for events. Team to reach out as we get closer to dates.
- Keisha suggested that the team determine the target of each meeting to develop the structure. If we want to reach 50 people or 500, it can be done. What is the outreach goal of each meeting? Think about different groups to have smaller meetings for: boys, youths, mothers, etc. – Gilpin is the largest housing site in Richmond, outreach needs to be different based on target audience / can't have just one meeting – maybe need to have 3, targeting different groups

Early Action Activities Discussion | Group 1:

Participants: Bree, Nannette, Keisha, David, Billy, Maritza, Yessenia, Danielle

Ideas for Early Action Activities:

- Fresh food initiative: 2 years going already – need infrastructure to support it; Mothers to Others
- Mural/art – not beneficial to residents – pick a project that can actually benefit the residents

Early Action Activities Discussion | Group 2:

Participants: Priscilla, Kelli, Robert, Sherrell, Coach, Sheila, Maritza, Danielle

- Priscilla – upgrading the playground and creating a track/workout area
- Sherrell – something for children, splashpad, trees for heat reduction, upgrade playgrounds
- Kelli: participatory budgeting process, submit project ideas, professionals develop project ideas, vote on putting money on those projects, give residents power to make decisions:
<https://www.participatorybudgeting.org/>
- Priscilla: monopoly exercise to vote during planning meetings
- Maritza: decide project by September; steering committee + working groups: what are the projects, how much do they cost; august meetings: vote/allocate meetings
- Kelli: outside drum garden, music stations, music installations that are water/weather proof – permanent grills and gathering spaces next to splash pad
- Robert: most important to get projects done on time
- Sherrell: pool at Calhoun center – activities for kids, ages 12-17, basketball is the only thing to do – emphasize children having something to do other than running around and getting into trouble.
- Kelli: grills + shaded areas
- Sheila: lots of kids on scooters, more on skateboards, lots of people sitting in the rain at bus stops
- Sherrell – north first street or chamberlain has no bench or cover
- Kelli: GRTC may have update on plans for bus shelters – Yessenia to connect
- Kelli: splash pad for summer, with movable ramp/etc for skaters to repurpose during winter
- Narrow down options, use monopoly money to select your preferences
- Music-related
- Sherrell: Calhoun center almost done (computer labs) – will have playstations, podcast equipment, t-shirt equipment, new furniture/paint have been completed – STEM lab – supported by Verizon

Stakeholder Interviews Discussion | Group 1 & 2:

- Jackie Provided an overview of the Stakeholder list and discussed the plan to hold small group conversations in June and July; the stakeholder conversations will be focused on Housing, Neighborhood, and People and at times there may overlap in the conversations and we will plan for that.
- Participants provided input to the [Stakeholder Interview list](#) and will continue to add to the list in the coming week.

Close Out + Next Steps

- Project Team to distribute a contact sheet for the group
- Sign up to be a facilitator for Resident & Community Meetings in June
- Attend Resident & Community Meetings in June
- Attend upcoming small engagement activities (to be announced)
- Attend Working Groups Meeting on July 26th
- Attend next Steering Committee Meeting on July 12th