

Community Leadership Action Team Meeting Notes

March 27, 2019



Present: Deidre McCullers, Dalia Place, Clif. Lavenhouse, Kristin Feierabend, MaDeja Leverett, Nikki McDougald, Melvin Jackson, Shemekka Coleman, Michael, Troy McLean, Kia Baker, Tamisha Thomas



Overarching Goal: Equip Southeast Raleigh residents with the knowledge and skills to lead positive community change.

Notes

Meeting started at 12:01

Review of February 27, 2019 Notes

- Clif motioned to approve, Dalia Second, all approved with edits

Updates:

- A Joint Action Team Meeting was held on Tuesday, March 26th. Each of the three Social & Economic Vitality action teams shared updates (Community Leadership, Training for Upward Mobility, and Racial Equity & Social Justice). The rest of the meeting was spent discussing ideas for a Workforce Development series that the action teams would help plan for August or September. Deidre, Clif, Nikki, Dalia and Kristin attended the joint action team meeting and will keep the action team updated as needed.

Revisit 100-Day Action Plan (developed October 2018) and determine next steps

- Aligning Community Relationships & Resources to Advance Our Leadership Work – **UPDATES:**
 - ✓ We have finalized the list of organizations, and all that had email addresses listed received an invitation to complete the survey. So far, we have 7 responses. The group set a deadline for April 10 for champions to do one last push. Dalia recommended that champions follow up with a personalized email and she has had success with this tactic. **Next Steps:** Review the data from the survey and strategize on how the action team can support organizations with equipping residents with knowledge and skills to lead positive community change.
 - ✓ The Grassroots Nonprofit Leadership Academy (hosted by Social & Economic Vitality and NC State University Institute for Nonprofits) has kicked off with 15 participants (30 applicants, 21 accepted, 15 attended opening session). Nikki asked if the organization list that received the survey was compared to the participants in the program. They have not and Melvin stated that we should at least get those 15 organizations to participate in the survey. Clif is one of the participants in the program and expressed that he thinks there will be great synergy between the organizations because most of them are at the same level and there are lots of opportunities for collaborations and sharing resources. **Next Steps:** Kristin & Clif will follow up to ensure the 15 participants in the grassroots non-profit program complete the Community Leadership survey.

- Increase Communication and Engagement Opportunities – **UPDATES:**
 - ✓ There will not be a Meet & Greet in April and we will promote the Southeast Raleigh Community Day on April 27 instead.
 - ✓ The action team has hosted two Neighborhood Meet and Greets. Members of the action team who attended the events gave their feedback:
 - Clif met new and returning folks from February’s meet and greet. He pointed out a theme he recognized- lots of interest in supporting youth and giving them a platform to express their concerns. Speaker, Michelle Keaton-Barrow, sparked a conversation about section 8 housing and left the people wanting more information, specifically, education around the section 8 voucher and how we can support the community affected by changes and policies using the voucher. Deidre stated the voucher policies have changed and it’s causing more people to move to Chapel Hill/Orange County. Nikki mentioned an increase of families experiencing similar issues and there is difficulty finding someone/organization that can address the issues. The group discussed finding someone who could speak truthfully about what is happening. Kia suggest someone who is doing advocacy work around section 8 and we may have to reach outside of Wake County. Clif stated that we need to plan on letting people know that we heard them and that we roll that conversation into future meet & greets.
 - Shemekka felt the room was full and was happy to see the action team’s theory to practice in regards to supporting a local black-owned business. She asked about the original planning session and if things had shifted, specifically an agenda. Dalia answered that we did have a loose agenda but the focus was mainly on the community coming together and building rapport/trust. She asked what we are doing strategically to support the platforms we are creating at the meet and greets- keep people active and not just actively listening. The group agreed it’s important to further develop the agenda/program for the meet and greets. Melvin asked if we should be leading the platform, or taking the platform back to the larger community for them to take ownership. Clif mentioned he will be attending PACT meetings.
 - Tamisha mentioned “Conversations over Dinner” a concept she is working on with her network. This involves having dinner and conversations around community issues and affected strategies to promote change, then have a follow up dinner (with the same people) to discuss how they have moved the work forward and the results. Tamisha suggested we come up with a clear process for the meet & greets including a clear follow up plan. Kia suggested we evaluate on how we can use our resources/tools more effectively. Tamisha also suggested to design the venue to help people move and create signage that lists the action team members.
 - Michael stated the issues will get clearer as we continue with more meet & greets and more of the community leadership work in general. We also should bring in people to the conversations who do not have the same views on the issues. This includes policy makers, it will help those who make the policies better understand and emphasize with the people the polices affect. Kristin mentioned plugging in the Restorative Circles work that Ms. Geraldine Alshamy is leading.
 - MaDeja was happy with the turnout for the March meet and greet and expressed that there is lots of great ideas coming from the action team members, but it’s imperative that the team supports the work needed to move forward with any plans.
 - ✓ **Next Steps:**
 - Strategize and plan for next community meet & greet to include a more strategic process/agenda at the event, including follow up → to be discussed at April meeting

- Are we trying to uplift a variety of issues and organizations so that residents are informed about issues? Are we trying to take on a particular issue (like housing or police accountability) as an action team? Or bolster the efforts of others working on these issues? What is our goal?
- Follow up on Section 8 resources
 - Deidre offered to reach out to her network and followed up after the meeting with information from Ms. Raquel Williams-Jones about a [Section 8 forum held in Virginia](#), which our team could potentially replicate in Southeast Raleigh.
 - Clif will reach out to the organizations from the grassroots non-profit capacity building group to see if there is anyone who can provide information about the section 8 changes.
- MaDeja will send out thank you email, survey and information about PACT to guests from March meet and greet
- Launch a youth-led leadership development program – **UPDATES:**
 - ✓ STEM programs / opportunities for youth (Clif)- Not sure if we will be able to start a pilot this summer because of conflicting schedules with camps. Clif suggested we push our timeline to fall. Melvin asked what age group the action team is targeting, Clif answered 8-19 ages. **Next steps:** Melvin suggested Clif get feedback from the youth at the Youth Equity Summit on April 13th.
 - ✓ Troy McClain, Easterseals UCP, introduced himself to the action team and shared that he is hoping to learn from the group and also contribute to the work.

Discussion of the action team structure

- Dalia and Kristin asked the team to consider becoming a chair of the action team with the administrative support from SERP and SEV. Shemekka asked if there is role description for chairs and if there is any authority over budgets/funding that comes with being a chair. The only budget that currently exists is for food purchases related to the action team. More discussion is needed about how to secure additional funds for this work.
- Michael requested that we create a shared google document where Action Team members can share information about community issues they're working on and how our action team might plug in. **Next steps:** Kristin will create a shared google document and share the link.

Adjourn: The meeting ended at 1:35pm

Next Meeting: April 24th, 2019 @ Crosby-Garfield Center (568 E. Lenoir St- Entrance E)

All Action Team agendas and minutes are available online at

<http://www.wakegov.com/humanservices/locations/crosby/Pages/Crosby-Garfield- CAG.aspx>