



Welcome and purpose (Diana Powell)

Information Presentation

Maggie Bailey presented briefly on We Plant it Forward, an organization that works to plant trees and educate communities on the importance of trees and how to properly plant and care for them.

Continued Discussion on Survey Questions

What do you love about your community?

- Need to include the opportunity for people to express what they dislike about the community; it might be difficult to express what you love when so much change and gentrification is occurring that is impacting long-time residents
- Possibility of saying “what do you like or dislike” instead of “what do you love or hate”
- What are things this group can do to address things that we do not like about the community?
- Issue raised that a 1.5-mile radius around Crosby, originally the target area for the Crosby Advocacy Group, may no longer be accurate due to changes in the demography of the community because of gentrification
- Politicians that claim to represent the interests of poor, black residents of Southeast Raleigh have failed, acting on their own interests under the guise of acting in the interests of the community.
- Need to identify community needs; 2016 survey asked and people said they didn’t know about where to find resources
- Impact on children – their needs not addressed and instead they just get “pushed out”
- Some attendees felt that people moving to Southeast Raleigh should never be welcomed into the community and they cannot contribute to the community while others felt that those “newcomers” or “gentrifiers” could become resources to the community, noting that they may not realize they are contributing to gentrification.
- Issue of reparations for descendants of slaves was raised, noting that there is no committee or group of stakeholders who meet to discuss reparations
- Property and development in Raleigh are lucrative businesses and are contributing to gentrification. One attendee asked how reparations would help to stop gentrification and general lack of representation from continuing or happening again.
- Some attendees emphasized the need to figure out what we as individuals are going to do to impact gentrification and be part of the answer, not part of the problem
- Not all black people who live in Southeast Raleigh dislike the gentrification/revitalization

- Need more information on the legal aspects of reparations: would it be at the local level or more at the state/federal level? What is the feasibility of each?
- Need to organize, mobilize, strategize to address community challenges
- Need to partner with schools and address issues like gang activity, poverty, and homelessness, especially among youth
- One attendee remarked that gentrification is causing children to be displaced not only out of their homes but also out of their futures and it is important to focus on addressing immediate needs
- Southeast Raleigh residents are sick of talking about surveys; instead this group needs to find a project and start to implement actions, especially because surveys do not always get to the people whose needs we want to address.
- Poor and black people have been suppressed for so long that they may not speak out
- Need to remove barriers to participating in human capital development activities
 - Barriers might include distrust of the government and cause them to not want to come to Crosby; people think that coming to meetings or programs won't help them to address their immediate needs (rent, healthcare, childcare, light bill, etc.)
- This group needs to do something to help the community and show that "Southeast Raleigh Matters"
- Idea proposed to put resources together and get clothing to give to people, need to do something to build relationships
- Need incentives for people to come/participate

What services should be provided in the Crosby-Garfield Building?

- Free, high quality condoms
- Food stamp recertification
- Low income housing services with a distinction from affordable housing
- Opportunities to learn how to contact elected officials
- People will come when they see a win and think they can make an impact
- City facilities should be free for community events

What are you willing to do to be engaged?

- Put out flyers
- Do something to bring people here by identifying community needs and resources
- Partner with organizations serving target populations like schools
- When people receive services don't force them to hear what we "think they need to hear" maybe sometimes people do need some direction and those positive messages will help impact the kids as well, need to find ways to keep reaching people
- Connect school social workers with Wake County Human Services to connect to resources
- Need a place to practice restorative justice – services in Crosby
- Help community members understand the different divisions and departments, for example that WCHS Family Services is a completely different entity from Child Protective Services.

- Social workers in the WCPSS are overworked, could refer families to Tamara Perkins, WCHS Family Services social worker
- sharing resources doesn't mean resources are helping and funding does not trickle down to grassroots efforts

Table discussion on Executive Team for next meeting

Next Meeting May 17th at 6pm