



social +
economic
vitality

Crosby Advocacy Group

December 19, 2017 9 A.M.
Meeting Minutes

"Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today and creates vision for tomorrow." – Melody Beattie

Attendees: Kara Allen-Eckard, Priscilla Awkard, Donise Benton, Verna P. Best, Dan Bulatek, Erin Byrd, Willa Casstevens, Jennifer Castillo, Tony Craddock, Mecca Dixon, Kristin Feierabend, Vielka Gabriel, , Gehrig Haberstock, Deanna Jackson, Melvin Jackson, David Little, Nikki Lyons, Annemarie Maiorano, Andrew Meyer, Tamara Perkins, Kathy Peterson, Dalia Place, Diana Powell, Angelicia Simmons, Hannah Taylor, Chad Walker, Lorna Wesley Parks, Kimberly Williams, Louise Williams, Ruthie Wofford, Dana Wright

Guests: Gehrig Haberstock (American Red Cross); Annemarie Maiorano (Wake County Human Services); Erin Byrd (Fertile Ground Food Cooperative)

Project Manager: Verna P. Best

SEV VISTA/Recorder: Hannah Taylor

Welcome/Introduction Meeting Minutes

Diana Powell welcomed the group. Attendees reviewed and approved the agenda and meeting minutes. All attendees introduced themselves.

Informational Presentations

Gehrig Haberstock – American Red Cross

- Gehrig and his team work primarily in the 27610 area and are housed near WakeMed
- Main services the Red Cross provides: disaster services, blood services, disaster preparedness, international services, service to armed forces
- In our community, mainly respond to house fires
 - over 660 fire cases in past 3.5 years
 - 20% of fires in Wake county in 27610 (out of 33 zip codes)
 - 27610 + Zebulon, Knightdale, Wendell = 30% of fires
 - The Red Cross works to connect victims of house fires to resources such as medical services, mental health services, financial services, other resources
- This year the Red Cross has a goal of installing 6100 alarms in Eastern NC, 7100 alarms actually installed
- National Home fire campaign began at end of 2014 - want to decrease fires by 25% over 5 years by....

- installing smoke alarms for free
- providing education on fire prevention and what to do when there is a fire
- to date 185 lives saved, 1 million smoke alarms installed across US
- Pillowcase Project – youth outreach program in partnership with Disney for 2nd-6th graders. Red Cross staff provide a one hour long workshop on disaster preparedness and safety while children get to decorate and take home a pillowcase that acts as their emergency kit
- What can you do to help? Spread the news about the home fire campaign
 - word of mouth or share the flyer (provided at CAG meeting)
 - Home fire campaign provides an appointment based service, someone will come within a week to check your smoke alarms, replace batteries, install smoke alarms, and provide some education on fire safety
 - May 5th “Sound the Alarm” even in Raleigh area - goal of installing 700-800 alarms in Raleigh area, targeting SE Raleigh area as an area of most need
- Questions? visit www.redcross.org or contact Gehrig Haberstock, Disaster Program Specialist at 9192390344 or gehrig.haberstock3@redcross.org

Erin Dale Byrd - Fertile Ground Food Cooperative

- Erin is one of the founding members and board president of FGFC which was created in an effort to establish a community center and grocery store in SE Raleigh
- FGFC is organized as a cooperative. There are over 29,000 coops in US that generate 64 billion in revenue each year.
- Basic principles of cooperatives - volunteerism and open membership, democratic member control, member economic participation (labor and resources), autonomy, cooperate with other cooperatives, education, value of community
- FGFC efforts began when Kroger in SE Raleigh closed
- Goal to create living wages and build love in the community
- Erin noted the history of cooperatives in Black communities
- Currently at 280 member-owners
 - \$100 ownership cost, can pay in full or over time
 - need 500 owners to start to qualify for other funding options
 - annual summer farmers markets - 3rd will take place in 2018
- community support process - businesses and nonprofits cannot be owners but are welcome to support FGFC and other partner organizations
- Vital Link, SE Raleigh assembly, Nutrition Hub, Community Food Lab are all important partners for FGFC
- FGFC is still looking for a permanent site. It is important for them to be in SE Raleigh, possibly off Old Garner Road. They are looking for sites that are roughly 10,000 square feet
- Vision for gathering space to be incorporated in the coop as a place people can go where they feel like it belongs to them. This will be a community/hang out space that does not yet exist in SE where people can share or experience entertainment (poetry, music, other types of shows) or participate in education (nutrition) opportunities.

- What can YOU do?
 - become a member
 - share on Facebook or with other networks
 - join a work group effort
 - organize a farmers market
- One CAG attendee shared that the food arc program could be a potential partner (high school students who are invested in food security and help with Camden Street Learning Garden, located within walking distance of the Crosby Garfield building)
- Similar organization - Renaissance Cooperative in Greensboro
 - opened in a closed grocery store in Greensboro
- Attendee question: What kind of food will be available? How will it be different and better for the community?
 - Natural, organic food available, local foods from local farmers, meet needs of community. This may not include products like kombucha and granola which are often available at other health food/coop stores but will be culturally appropriate for the community FGFC will serve.
 - Another major benefit of the cooperative is community and democratic ownership. Cooperatives allow a community to govern its own institutions and money invested will stay in the community rather than leave (dollars spent at Food Lion versus Fertile Ground)
 - FGFC will also act as a market for the community, where community members can sell their own products
 - FGFC will be affordable for the community
 - FGFC is preparing to launch vendor recruitment, looking for local farmers, especially in the SE Raleigh and especially minority-owned businesses

Annemarie Maiorano – Update on Crosby Building Renovations

- Annemarie is the WCHS Deputy Director of Operations and oversees building maintenance and renovation; she has been working with GSA (General Services Administration) to prepare Crosby for SEV staff
- Explanation on extended time of the project: there was a misalignment between staff request and amount of money in budget. They asked themselves how to retrofit a building that was once clinical space and create it into a space that would better meet SEV's needs.
- When GSA and other professionals came to do the work they realized other major repairs would be necessary and the building would have to be up fitted to meet ADA and other fire code requirements if they were to do any major renovations. Compliance with these codes dramatically raised costs of the project, so it had to be rolled back. They tried to determine what work could be done without triggering code compliance.
 - Annemarie presented the new proposed floor plan as temporary solution (3-5 years) until funds are available to put sprinklers in the building sometime between 2023-2025
 - SEV is still evolving and as it grows, we may want to change Crosby in a different way than we do now to better accommodate SEV's growth and needs.

- Moving forward: this project will consist of a 60 day build out, bids open January 4, so the project should be complete in early Spring
- It will provide SEV with adequate space, and while it is not an optimal solution, it is the best that HS and GSA can do now
- Attendee concerns:
 - Security – no security guard will be necessary but badges will still be required to enter some parts of the building.
 - Parking – no solution determined.
 - Signage – attendees noted the need for signage near, on, and within the Crosby-Garfield building.
 - Other occupants (not county staff but community orgs) – the community needs to occupy space in Crosby - vision of Crosby as anchor asset, providing administrative space, meeting space, classes or workshops
 - Need updates on SEV webpage (which does not yet exist) as well as possibly on Crosby page of wake county website
 - Need to explore opportunities for new furniture in existing space to allow for more occupancy
 - Need to clean out space on 2nd floor as well to open up more office space

Social & Economic Vitality Update

Action Team Updates - Nikki Lyons noted that as new members join CAG, we need to emphasize why we have the action teams. They are not to focus on problems in the community but be solution-based. Action team focus-areas are based on community needs. They should identify policy needs, opportunities for improved service delivery and coordination, and ways to maximize resources that already exist while raising awareness around focus-areas and engaging communities

- Racial Equity and Social Justice – Next meeting Jan 10, 12:30-1:30 in same room as CAG. This action team is hoping to develop a mentorship program to support reentry efforts and is investigating partnerships with faith-based organizations to support programming. This project is in the beginning stages, figuring out how action team can help CAG as a whole in reentry efforts. Looking for data from Family Resource Center of Raleigh.
- Training for Upward Mobility and Labor Market Value – Next meeting Jan 9 11:30am-12:30pm. This action team is also still in a formative stage. Members are trying to meet with different partners, share information, and create a continuum of workforce development and training opportunities. Some partners that have already been identified include 4-H, Head Start, Learning Together, Human Capital Development (Middle Class Express), The Food Bank and Youth Build. The Food Bank, Wake Tech, and MCE are working together to provide comprehensive training. This action team would also like to focus on the construction of the YMCA/elementary school (note requirements to hire 30% minority or women owned contractors) As a result, equipping residents to have training to be employable in growing industries is an effective strategy that has been identified by this action team.

Note: A fire drill occurred at this point in the meeting, approximately 10:40, and some attendees departed while others returned at 10:55

- Community Leadership Development – Next meeting Jan 8th 10am-12noon. This action team is working closely with SE Raleigh Promise (SERP) because the goals of SERP and this action team are closely aligned (eradicating generational poverty, promoting racial equity, place based work, authentic community-based process, leadership among residents). As a result, it was decided that the two groups would work in tandem in order to avoid duplicated efforts on community engagement and leadership. At their next meeting, this action team will identify what community leadership programs already exist and then develop action steps that will be shared with the group at a future meeting. A communication will go out at the end of January that will be shared with the community.
 - Housing issues under community leadership
 - connect with DHIC Yvette Holmes - pull together resources to share with community (via training, door knocking, other methods) to help them advocate for themselves against predatory housing/development practices
 - note that as SE Raleigh and Crosby-area demographic changes, CAG focus areas must also change
 - note that housing is one of 5 pillars of SERP

Community Highs & Lows

- Priscilla Awkard Highs - St. Aug Health film showing *Resilience* that discusses Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and their role in childhood development and impact on adults
 - After the screening of the film Priscilla moderated small group discussion about how ACEs impact our community
 - Verna Best proposed the possibility of hosting a screening with CAG and community residents with a facilitated discussion after, where community resources would be available that focus on mental health or ACEs
 - The Family Services Academy, a program held on the first Thursday of each month, provides parenting classes and could be a starting point for a screening and resources are connected. Teachers could be invited and CCERC could provide counselors
 - DeAnna Jackson, Kara Allen-Eckard, Priscilla Awkard, Jennifer Castillo, Dexter Hebert interested in moving this forward
 - A CAG attendee who is a social worker noted that she uses the assessment provided by film as a part of client intake
- Passage Home Highs - Jarvis Jones
 - The first cohort of Passage Home's culinary services program finished their classes. The program was very successful and a second cohort will begin in January or February
 - Passage Home's angel tree raised gifts to over 300 families
- Learning Together Highs - Pancake Breakfast
 - Tripled attendance from last year, Head Start parents also attended. In the future, this event can become more of a community event
- DeAnna Jackson Highs - Raleigh Youth Council (RYC)
 - The RYC completed a successful program gathering gifts for families in need

CAG Events and Planning

- No upcoming events; Resilience film screening will be first event of 2018
- Discussion of community open house, resource fair, other type of event when Crosby renovations are complete to share with community
 - combine with “play night” - open up playgrounds to community so any kids can play
 - tie in grand-reopening, include county commissioners and official program - ribbon cutting
 - recruitment for 4-H or other programs
 - Date: April-June, need to allow time for basement renovations as well as outdoor improvements; planning time; avoid May (Memorial Day, Mothers’ Day, graduation), April could be too early.
 - group agrees to set a tentative date for April 28, June 2 back up date, Priscilla Awkard recommends attendees vet those two days and the group will discuss at January meeting.

Community Partner Updates

Triangle family services has an officer manager position open

Part time officer finance position with Learning Together (benefits available)

The next CAG meeting is scheduled: January 16th from 9am-11am. Guest speakers will include:

-Sharon Peterson from Wake County Planning Department: Data in Crosby-area and Wake County as well as data on use of Wake County Services

-Hannah Taylor: SEV survey findings

-Jesse Hathcock from Jobs for Life

Verna Best noted that if there are things you want to see happening in CAG that are not, please let co-chairs know!

Adjourn 11:24am