



Attendees: Geraldine Alshamy, Priscilla Awkard, Verna P. Best, Derrick W. Byrd, Tony Craddock, Lisa Crosslin, Joy Curry, Emma D’Allaird, Jerry M. Dodson, Cathey J. Ector-Cox, M. Derrick Faulcon, Kristin Feierabend, Melissa Forde, Duane Gott, Wallace Green, DeAnna Jackson, Ursula Jolly, Avis Jones, Lauren Jones, Twanna Joyner Jones, Ben Kittner, Kim Konderla, Clif Lavenhouse, David Little, Nikki Lyons, Deidre McCullers, Tolulape Omokaiye, Tamara Perkins, Kathy Peterson, Dalia Place, Diana Powell, Katharina Reher, Lekesha R. Shaw, Hannah Taylor, Christal Toodle, Bernadine Walden, Kayla Wilson

Information Presenters: Melissa Forde, Kaleidoscope Project | Lekesha Shaw, Executive Director, Raleigh Area Development Authority | Kim Konderla, Project CATCH Case Manager, Salvation Army

Project Manager: Verna P. Best

SEV VISTA/Recorder: Hannah Taylor

Welcome, Review Agenda, and Meeting Minutes

Priscilla Awkard

- Meeting opened at 9:33AM; minutes approved unanimously

CAG Executive Team Proposal Overview

Priscilla Awkard

- An overview of the executive team proposal was shared with the CAG, describing each position, noting each was open to anyone, including residents, and the four resident positions were to ensure the representation of community members.
- Many CAG members agreed that organization to the CAG is key to pushing the group forward
- In June, the CAG group will vote on and implement the executive team. This will allow time to advertise and get people involved and interested.
 - Some CAG members raised concerns over who would have access to voting on the executive team positions. Who will vote on the positions (CAG or Residents Group) is undecided but will be an important topic to discuss again. On one hand, if the team will represent CAG, the actual vote would occur in the CAG meeting. However, if the time of the CAG meeting is inaccessible to community representatives, they could not vote for themselves. Proposals were made to combine votes from both groups or cast votes online. This will be discussed at future CAG and residents’ meetings.

Update on CAG Residential Advisory Group

Priscilla Awkard

- About 18 attendees, about half were Southeast Raleigh residents, with other partners present including NC State, Interfaith Food Shuttle, Cooperative Extension and 4-H Youth Development, the City of Raleigh, and the Raleigh Housing Authority.
- Residents voiced concerns and displayed a desire to be engaged. There was a discussion of topics based on the fall SEV survey.
- Recommended action item for residents – invite 4 other people to come next month.
- Discussion to start a senior group, make sure activities and support are available to seniors.

- Attendees provided feedback to figure out what services need to be provided in the Crosby-Garfield building.
- The next residents meeting will be April 19th at 6:30.
- Geraldine Alshamy reminded the group of previous suggestions for action on educating the community about affordable housing and predatory developer practices.
 - SEV staff shared that Legal Aid, DHIC, Campbell Law School, NC Justice Center, and the City of Raleigh are working to create a flyer that will help share resources and educate individuals who are being targeted to sell their home and SEV plans to host a workshop or resource fair for people with housing and predatory developer concerns.

Crosby Youth Council Proposal

Hannah Taylor

- Based on survey reports and working with the community, SEV would like to create spaces and opportunities for youth get engaged, find leadership opportunities, and create projects that benefit themselves and their community. One route would be a 4-H youth club but SEV staff is open to other structures and ideas.
- Some CAG members expressed their support for a youth council or another youth engagement initiative.
- SEV staff could benefit from talking with Southeast Raleigh Assembly and other youth serving organizations and plug in to their efforts.

Social and Economic Vitality Updates

Verna P. Best

- Construction update the lower level of Crosby will be ready for occupancy on April 17th
- Occupants of the space will be SEV staff including Vielka Gabriel, Hannah Taylor, Verna Best, and Tamara Perkins, as well as a drop-in space for Wake County Human Services or Cooperative Extension employees. There will also be a small conference room and break room, public access to computers, as well as other information and resources available for the community.
- SEV wants to invite the public to be a part of the grand re-opening. June 8th and June 22 are two possible dates for a grand reopening or open house. The event would begin at the end of the workday (around 4:30pm) but stay open into the evening for the community to join
- The group chose June 8th as the preferred date.
- SEV staff is working to create a committee of residents and partners to help plan the grand opening event. Please give your name to Hannah Taylor (Hannah.taylor@wakegov.com) if you want to participate on this committee.
- On April 17th Crosby will host activities focused on Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month. The CAG meeting scheduled for that day will focus on child abuse and neglect prevention and we will end the meeting early to go outside to do the pinwheel planting, representative of child abuse and neglect prevention.
- SEV is working with Chavis Park and Community Center to screen *Resilience* and provide resources to the community that help to prevent ACEs. The first screening will focus on the ACE of having a parent who is incarcerated and will include experts and resources on that issue.
- SEV is planning to pilot a partnership with Poe Elementary school with one noted focus on children experiencing homelessness.

- The Kenan Charitable Trust approached the City of Raleigh for a project and the City of Raleigh submitted a proposal on addressing homeless youth earlier this year. A follow up meeting will occur in May.
- Verna Best noted that Wake County wants to support the work in the CAG and would like for us to document meetings with videos and photos. If you do want to be videoed or photographed, please let us know so we can respect your wishes.
 - CAG members are also expected to treat each other with common courtesy, if one member would rather not be photographed or included in a video, please be cognizant of that.

Information Presentations

Melissa Forde – Kaleidoscope Project

- The Kaleidoscope Project is a coalition of five organizations and not a 501(c)3. The coalition includes Salvation Army Project CATCH, Lucy Daniels Center, Marbles Kids Museum, Wake County Smart Start, Natural Learning Initiative (NC State Design School).
- The project addresses community needs for positive environments for children age 0-8 that emphasize social and emotional wellbeing, and the creation of spaces that build resilience in children and families.
- The Kaleidoscope Project is guided by a community-based philosophy and tries to understand needs of communities, children, and families, hosting monthly community conversations.
- The Kaleidoscope project is working with Social and Economic Vitality to build child-focused spaces in the SEV focus areas (Southeast Raleigh and Eastern Wake County).
- One example of their work includes making bus stops more kid-friendly. Bus stops are not spaces created with kids in mind but do sometimes host children. The Kaleidoscope Project worked with the Salvation Army and the City of Raleigh to create a child-friendly bus stop by creating interactive art to engage children who are waiting at the bus stop with parents.

Lekesha R. Shaw, Executive Director and Wallace Green, President, Raleigh Area Development Authority (RADA)

- An overview of the services provided by RADA was shared with the CAG. RADA works to provide housing and financial education to underserved communities and assist low and moderate-income individuals in improving their quality of life through the attainment of economic stability.
- Wallace Green shared some of the history of RADA and its focus on economic development for the Southeast Raleigh area, especially during the economic recession of 2008. They are now working to address the gentrification and development of Southeast Raleigh and the Blount Street corridor.
- Wallace Green shared that in his opinion, the City of Raleigh has not done enough to protect affordable housing and gentrification is the result. He recommends a “friendly reverse mortgage” product and emphasized the need for programs that help homeowners to upfit their homes with loans based on ability to pay.
- While the City of Raleigh is behind on addressing affordable and low-income housing, there are opportunities for seniors to access zero-interest loans to help with housing costs. These resources will be shared with the CAG

- RADA is interested in engaging with the predatory developer issue and being an advocate for people who want to sell their homes. In addition, they want to think more about how to help individuals stay in the neighborhood and improve their housing if it is substandard

Kim Konderla, Project CATCH Case Manager, Salvation Army

- Project CATCH works with 11 community partners, and all the Wake County homeless shelters. They focus on supporting homeless children, including families that may be doubled up or in hotels by providing case management, screenings and assessments, early intervention services, school and mental health supports, enrichment activities and parent support.
- Project CATCH emphasizes holistic case management, connecting families with housing programs to increase the family's economic stability as well as the child's mental and social stability.
- Project CATCH advocates for policy change concerning early intervention and childcare subsidies and provides trainings for service providers on trauma informed care

Community Partner Updates

- The Coastal Credit Union Gala celebrates nonprofits. The grant application process will open in April for organizations working to finance projects on education, financial education, food insecurity, and helping the financially vulnerable. Verna Best and Hannah Taylor will share more details when they becomes available. The application window is short so apply quickly!
- The City of Raleigh is hiring for Raleigh Summer Youth Employment program.
- Verna Best shared the importance of the arts in community revitalization. She recently attended an information session on the National Association of Black Storytellers. For a week in October organizations can "adopt" an African American story teller to do programming with youth and adults. These efforts could be incorporated into what CAG is doing.
- CAG is looking for a community member to speak at the pinwheel planting ceremony for Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month to share a story of triumph or resilience. If you know someone who would be interested in speaking, please ask them to contact Verna Best.

Adjourn at 11:30AM

Next CAG Meeting: April 17th, 9:30 AM – 10:30 AM; Please plan to stay for the pinwheel planting at 10:45am.

Next Residents Meeting: April 19th, 6:30 PM