

**Family Engagement Meeting  
May 7, 2007**

**DRAFT**

**Present: Red Petrovs, Latosha Pittard, Mike Hackett, Tim Johnson, Clo Barnett, Ray Beck, Jeff Lukich, Monica Knight, Staff: Jim Geiser**

Red opened the meeting and had everyone introduce themselves. The following items were added to the previous meeting minutes:

- Add Tim Johnson to the attendees.
- Add Family Mentoring to the beginning ideas.

With those changes the minutes were approved.

Red also mentioned that the Health Initiative wanted to make sure that there would be a health component to whatever is created.

The group then continued with its discussion and brainstorming concerning the initiative:

1. The Miriam Moore Center and the East Athens Park were discussed as major resources in the community. It was suggested that we talk with Barbara to discuss their potential role in this project.
2. Clo shared information about the Hancock Community Development Corporation.
3. There was discussion as to the importance of getting involved early in the SPLOST conversations. The next cycle begins in 2011.
4. It was mentioned that we need to see how we might access CPPC (Community Partnership for Protecting Children) funds.
5. It was discussed that we need to look at the different options related to our geographic vision. Are we targeting those who can walk to the location, those within the quadrant, or something in between? Are we looking at one central building, a cluster of buildings, or what? Will staff move from site to site? A committee made up of Tim, Latosha, Mike, and Monica agreed to get information and bring back several options to the group. This would be done after the meeting with B.J. Walker.
6. Discussion concerning ownership of property in the area was discussed-and developing pedestrian access through the trails. Safety issues would need to be addressed. (It was mentioned that 2 lots behind DFCS are owned by Clarke County, the other by John Johnson.)
7. Mike mentioned that the Boys and Girls Club would have a teen program and that they would welcome outside involvement such as teen pregnancy prevention programs.
8. The discussion of a shuttle bus was once again mentioned. It could be used to transport more people to the “center”
9. It was agreed that we would invite Heather Benham from Athens Land Trust to join our group.
10. Family Literacy would be a component of the “center”.
11. It was suggested that David Kelly be contacted regarding CPPC funds. Jeff agreed to follow-up.

Red suggested that perhaps rather than simply trying to define this site that we look at a 20 year vision as to what could be done to serve the entire community, and then focus on developing the first strategic site based on this larger vision. This would broaden the scope of this group, but might make replication easier in the long run.

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The group then brain-stormed questions that they might ask B.J. Walker on May 15. These included:

1. Should we look at a 20 year plan or a shorter period?
2. Would she support us getting CPPC funds?
3. What kind of needs assessment would she recommend?
4. Who are our community development gurus to do long-term planning for such an endeavor?
5. What geographic size is optimal for this vision?
6. What are some collaboration models that we may want to emulate-or visit?
7. What are funding options?
8. How do we better engage the school system. (Monica was going to invite Vernon Payne and Ovita Thornton to the meeting.)
9. How can this effort be sustained over the long term?
10. How much does she know about the East Lake model? Would such a model work here? What other models is she aware of?

Some other discussion focused on the need to look at bilingual models as Fourth Street serves about 37% Latino students-many struggle with English.

It was discussed that we need to find out what a comprehensive family literacy model looks like. Jan Stephens would be a great resource.

It was discussed that after we get a little more clarity with our plans and vision we would visit with churches and community groups to get community input. We would perhaps focus on one open-ended question to get input.

It was mentioned that the group was still very much brainstorming ideas and there were many different ideas as to what a resource center is, even within the community. It was mentioned that we are hoping that within 60-90 days our committee can agree upon a general definition and initial plan.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 15 at DFCS at 10:00 to meet with B.J. Walker. Our next regularly scheduled meeting is scheduled for May 23 at 9:00 at DFCS.