

August 25th meeting

Prepared by Ruth Robbins

In Attendance: Chanda, Libby, Lisa O., Carl, Ruth. Whitney, Gary

Action Points and "Homework":

- 1) Libby and Ruth will work on a draft of our mission statement
- 2) Whitney will compile a list of community organizations to further our goals related to "partnerships"
- 3) Everyone will continue to brainstorm on questions that they would like to see included in the community survey to be conducted by the Committee on Education & Health
- 4) Use Google Docs "comment mode" for our common documents

Per a request from Cal, he asked that the discussion on workshops be held off until he could be in attendance.

Chanda attended the the meeting of the full task force on Monday and said that each of the three committees gave an update on their accomplishments thus far. A full summary of the meeting will be available for review come next week.

Lisa and Cal are still working on the "rapid response" module and specifically, logistical problems and coordination with the local police. They will contact the community's police liaison for more information.

Carl announced that there will be an October 15th Zoom seminar on Lafayette in an effort to illuminate the name change to "Lafayette-Pointer Park" and to further an effort to "bring forward" the community's history. We discussed the need for "historic signage", creative ways to illustrate the community's history and how we might bring historical records 'to life'.

Libby shared with the group her thoughts on what and how a dedicated space in the new community center might function and even look like. Her notes are listed here:

This write-up focuses on the Chevy Chase Community Center and how it could be leveraged to promote diversity and inclusion. The Rock Creek West neighborhood and Chevy Chase, DC in general have a known history of resisting racial integration. This is not who we want to be. Our community must recognize the impediments to racial and economic diversity in our society and work to eliminate them in our community.

Our community center should bring together all people as equals in terms of power, respect, and importance.

Role:

The Center should play an influential role in our neighborhood. With the proper vision and planning, it can serve as a hub to foster many things:

1. social interaction and development (gatherings, celebrations, potlucks)
2. education (workshops, training - Cal will send write-up, Carl and Libby helping)
3. civic engagement (meetings, info sessions...)
4. resources for seniors and youth
5. cultural and artistic activities (exhibits, demonstrations, readings, craft shows, ethnic cooking and meals)
6. entertainment - street performers, festivals
7. local business interests - pop-ups, table top displays, cottage industry, start-ups, farmers' markets...
8. help with safety and law enforcement

A space: The Community Task Force recommends that a dedicated area be created in the Center.

- A safe and neutral space for addressing issues involving diversity and inclusion

and where different groups can openly express their concerns

- A means to empower the black and brown residents of Ward3/4 by seeking their input and guidance.
- A place to house historical and current resources and orchestrate activities that contribute to increasing awareness, learning, and engagement in our community,

Design: The design of the space is crucial to its success.

Physical attributes to consider:

- "Feel" of the place: A welcoming space where people want to go, interact and spend time.

- Accessible to everyone
- With both a large and more intimate space
- Seating 1) for events and 2) for lounging comfortably
- Natural light
- Kitchen facilities for preparing and serving meals - important for cultural and social interaction
- Good wall and floor space for art exhibits
- Dedicated area for display and consultation of historical archives
- Stage and acoustics for music and theater; space for audience seating
- Options for refreshments (self-serve beverage machine so people can linger over a coffee/soft drink)
- Adjacent outdoors spaces - sitting area, garden, play area for children, nice views