

Ashland Site Tour

Tuesday, June 22, 2011

6:00pm-7:30pm

15+ attendees

BREAKOUT SESSION: (SB) Held at Boys and Girls Club (2405 Elmwood Ave)

Site Significance

- Torn down in 2000 (Possibly vacant for 4 years prior to demolition)
- Crosses (cemetery feeling, placed as a memorial for area residents who have been killed)
- Trash (littering on property, dumping site for: alcohol & trash)
- Crime (2 body outlines on the edge of the site – don't know if real or prank – either way it sends a message)

Strengths

- Vacant lot: viewed as better than a vacant building
- Open Field: easy to see/patrol the neighborhood
- Bus line
- Boys and Girls Club - asset to neighborhood

Challenges

- Having to see a vacant lot every day. (Not a good image for the children at B&G Club)
- Temporary memorial (set up on the lot)
- Safety: Lot is not fenced
- Vacant single family homes surrounding the vacant lot
- Transportation: Hard for kids to get to and from school without the use of the school bus
- Have 3 liquor stores within one block

Community Needs

- Jobs: help bring revenue to the area
- Healthy community
- Healthy foods/ place to get food: Many people have to grocery shop at one of the liquor stores. Food there is out of date, expensive, most of the time.
- Safe lot/area for children living in the area
- Technology Access: cost and access is an issue. Have to go to library, which is too far away
- Adult education: Boys and Girls Club only serves students 5-18. If 19 year olds are looking for job, they are out of luck.

Reuse Options (that could address community needs)

- Grocery Store
 - Stimulate jobs and income in the area
 - Promote a healthy lifestyle, since all they have are liquor stores for access to food
 - Worry that site is too small
- Soccer Field: Appeal to growing population of Spanish speaking families
- Recreational fields (multi-use): walking track, older people in neighborhood might like to walk

- Exercise: Ideal for senior citizens living within the community
- Job Readiness Facility
 - Something like FEC
 - Prepare adults for the workforce
 - Classes, events, etc.
 - Computers (Resume Building)
 - People not prepared to walk into an interview
- Business Center
- Multi-purpose Community Center
 - Module building/multi functional
 - Office space
 - Small grocery store
- Social Services
 - A lot of single mothers in the area, that can't afford some of the resources
- School
 - No public schools in the area
 - Partner with Boys and Girls Club (morning and after care)
 - Hold accountability
 - Boys and Girls Club is currently a school drop off/pick up site for kids
- Boys and Girls Club Extension
- Community Center
- Shopping Center
- Boys and Girls Club would like to see school across the street: Imagine Renaissance or Rogers is closest school
- No Urban Gardens
- Future development of the site needs to promote a safe environment with positive traffic
- Build upon existing resources
- Build something everyone can use
- Senior housing: there are several senior centers with programs nearby, plus senior housing complexes close by
- No need for more housing at this point. Should invest in fixing up vacant houses
- Mostly a neighborhood of single family housing
- Don't want competition for Boys and Girls Club across the street: needs to be adult focus
- Reuse needs to be supervised
- CSA drop off site: could help people coming back to & fixing up houses (food Co-op)