

Greenwood Site Tour

Thursday, July 14, 2011

5:30pm – 7:30pm

9 attendees

BREAKOUT SESSION (DB)

Site Significance

- Used to be able to walk to school, bussing kids across town is hard on kids
- Greenwood was viewed as our “home elementary” in the neighborhood community grew up in...many are sad to see it close
- One participant attended Greenwood as a child
- Residents would like kids to attend school in neighborhood

Strengths

- Location within the neighborhood. 27th Street location -- community presence/anchor and potentially increases reuse potential
- Style. Configuration of the building and architectural features make the building desirable. Positive features include high ceilings, large rooms and big windows
- The building is still an asset to the community
- Proximity to transit...on a bus line
- Proximity to highway
- Opportunity to build and reinvest in the neighborhood instead of building elsewhere

Challenges

- Building has been closed for so long, there is a loss of connection to the site
- Condition. Will require extensive resources to renovate and bring back to the original state
- Getting the community involved in reuse...creating community pride and ownership of site
- Safety. The area has high crime and drug activity
- This isn't the inner city, people consider it the “ghetto”
- Lots of Section 8 housing in the area

Community Needs

- Youth focus. Youth need attention and to be steered in the right direction. There needs to be a gathering place for youths. Youth have to travel far to reach a community center and these centers do not provide adequate programs
- Gathering place for the entire community
- Parents can't afford day care
- Low-income families need access to health services
- Help for an aging population

- Need to find a way to reinvest in the community and to attract and retain residents/families/businesses
- Neighborhood needs to support local business. Retail has left the neighborhood because of lack of community support
- Safe place
- Quality housing
- In-fill housing on large stock of empty lots
- Jobs
- A location for recycling

Reuse Options

- Community center
 - Recreation, summer youth programs and after-school tutoring
- Day care center providing services to low-income families
- Library
- Park (other residents said there is no need for additional park space)
- Mixed Use
 - Retail, services, living, and office
- Education
 - Adult trade education and vocational training
 - Montessori school
- Community health center
 - Like Swope Health Centers with satellite centers offering health services, education, and possibly incorporates child care with health care
 - Medical rehabilitation center
- If commercial use – would need to benefit the surrounding community
- Business Incubator
- Recycling center