

Ladd

Tuesday, May 31, 2011

5:30 – 7:30pm

10+ attendees

BREAKOUT SESSION (FB, DC)

Site Significance

- Mrs. Obama talked about this area as a food desert.
- Children attended this school
- Community members attended Ladd
- Building used to be overflowing, full of life

Strengths

- In excellent condition: move in ready
- Access to transportation
- Still considered a center place/gathering spot
- Grounds are used by the community (t-ball practice in session during the site tour) – this helps ward off illicit activity
- Building is big and has versatility
- Size and set up of rooms are good: large rooms

Challenges

- Concerned about building being vacant, Attracts illegal activities and vandalism
- Seen signs of people in the building
- Illicit activity taking place
- Adult men parking in parking lot during the evenings (area that is not easily seen from the street) – concerns about drug activity

Solutions to Challenges

- Encourage use of grounds, playground (supervised)
- Block area off/make in-accessible
- Surveillance camera located in key spots
- Bars or mesh screen over doors and windows

Community Needs

- Jobs
- Community facility
- Education
- Facility to serve the heart of the community

- Salons, services, goods
- Food desert (have to go to Blue Parkway now)
- Entertainment/Recreation
- To create places/services that will make people want to live in the area

Reuse Options (that could address community needs)

- Mentoring related to housing rehabilitation
- Shopping center
- Community center
- Community center/shopping center
- Technical school/Life skills education
- Women and children education center
- Meeting rooms
- Coffee shop
- Boys and Girls club/ YMCA for youth
- Senior housing (like D.A. Holmes)
 - Concerned about affordable/subsidized housing being built when plenty of vacant houses in neighborhood
 - Multi family housing a possibility
- Senior services (like Palestine Sr. Center)
- Grocery Store
- Urban agriculture
- Distribution center for angel food network
- Food Processing retail incubator
- Housing resource center
- One stop shop social service center