

Pinkerton Site Tour

Thursday, June 30, 2011

5:30pm-7:15pm

7 attendees

BREAKOUT SESSION (DB & JL)

Site Significance

- New Homeowner in this area. Bought their house from someone whose child attended Pinkerton
- Neighborhood school. Strong relationship with neighborhood
- Also brought in children from homeless shelters and some who had disabilities
- Closed quick and painful for the neighborhood. They were close knit with teachers (although neighbors didn't show up during the right-sizing meetings to fight for the school)
- Hosted community breakfasts
- Provided a safe place for neighborhood kids
- Neighborhood residents volunteered at the school

Reaction to current use (WEB Dubois Center)

- Excellent use. Good track record of 35+ years
- Perhaps underutilized space (interior and exterior space), however great current use
- Consensus- supportive of current use
- Could other entities co-locate in the facility to maximize underutilized space?

Strengths

- Great size classrooms. Built for educational purpose. Upper floors could be used for other uses.
- Parking off street
- Full commercial kitchen but needs new stove/hood
- Solid, middle class neighborhood

Challenges

- Multi-use gym/auditorium. Could be better if it was a traditional auditorium
- If building is vacant, could start a reaction of mass selling of homes/rentals
- Loading dock goes to a brick wall

Community Needs

- A place for social services, not a really a rec. center
- Safe place in neighborhood

Reuse Options (that could address community needs)

- Shared building arrangement
- Community center: social services, event space
- Mixed use / commercial (including retail, office space)
- Culinary arts training/catering business (take advantage of commercial kitchen)
- Business incubator
- Performance center
- Educational
 - Adult education center
 - Charter school