

Pershing, Willard

Saturday, May 21, 2011

9:00-10:30am

13 + attendees

BREAKOUT SESSION: (DB)

Site Significance

Pershing

- Historic name from WWI: general in war

Willard

- Went to K-1 here
- Saw building 3 years ago and it is declining fast
- Historic names from WWI: a man in favor of women's suffrage and prohibition
- Past proposals sent in and denied
- Beneficial to community: green impact zone

Strengths

Pershing

- Structurally sound
- Transportation: close to Prospect

Willard

- Architecturally well done: appealing
- Good bones still stand

Challenges (Interim solutions in blue)

Pershing

- Not as much of a tight neighborhood
- Better for institution or group, not neighborhood support system

Willard

- Condition: vandalism , people taking copper out (tarp over holes in roof) (patrol more)
- Rapid turnover in neighborhood
- Used to represent community heart
- Hundreds of vacant houses
- Needed to secure all of the outside doors
- No central entrance
- Close neighbors do not want lingering young adults: just removed crime, drugs from area

Community Needs

Pershing

- Need a clearing house for mentoring services
- Restoration for broken families

Willard

- Need youth activities
- Older generation aging in place: need activity center
- Homeowners: need to know what resources are out there to help rehab house
- Sustainable community
- Intergenerational groupings
- Grocery: fresh produce
- More dense, need heart of community

Reuse Options (that could address community needs)

Pershing

- Mixed use
- Mentoring groups: teach people how to mentor/tutor, serve community with those resources
- House restoration: retirees will have desk space in building. Go out to neighbors and help fix houses. Teach or give insight on how to do simple upgrades

The following are the communities' responses to informal proposals received by the Repurposing Office:

- Resource center/mentoring (okay)
- Culinary institute (okay)

Willard

- Senior housing
- Art space: KC Art Institute looked at building a few years ago
- Housing: combine rooms, awesome multi use, need to attract people to stay in neighborhood
- Senior housing/ community center
- Community garden
- Nothing that would bring older kids back to lingering on the streets. Have rehabbed the neighborhood and bringing negative people back would anger residents. Maybe if the program was well structured and monitored. Lower grade school or activities would be okay.

The following are the communities' responses to informal proposals received by the Repurposing Office:

- Charter -- not here, other uses more important