



AGENDA

Annie Glidden North Revitalization Plan Task Force Meeting
Location: DeKalb County Community Outreach Building: Conference Room-
West- Room Number H800
2500 North Annie Glidden Road
January 29, 2018
6:30 p.m.

- A. Roll Call
- B. Approval of Minutes – December 5, 2017
- C. Public Participation
- D. Items for Discussion/Action
 - 1. Recommendation for acting chair in chair's absence
 - 2. Chairperson comments
 - 3. Planning for subcommittee's
 - Review discussion group survey results
 - Scheduling of subcommittee meetings
 - Discussion topics for subcommittee meetings
 - 4. Market Study Survey Discussion
 - Survey administration and distribution
 - 5. Open discussion/questions session
- E. Adjournment

MINUTES - DRAFT
CITY OF DEKALB
Annie Glidden North Revitalization Plan Task Force Meeting
December 5, 2017

The Annie Glidden North Revitalization (AGN) Plan Task Force met on December 5, 2017, at the DeKalb County Community Outreach Building, 2500 N. Annie Glidden Road, DeKalb, IL.

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

A. ROLL CALL

The following members of the AGN Task Force were present: Will Heinisch, Derek Hiland, Dan Kenney, Christie Krupp, Michael Newman, Shelly Perkins, Patti Perkins, Mike Pittsley, Tiara Huggins, Glen Roby, Herb Rubin, Morgan Brickley, Deanna Cada, Chad Glover, Andrew John Knox, Joe Gastiger, Valerie Redmond, David Castro, Ellingsworth Webb, Ecila Scaife, Gip Seaver, Bill Finucane, and David Jacobson. Members absent from the meeting were: Mohammad Labadi, Denise Weinmann, Dr. Leroy Mitchell, Kurt Thurmaier, Michelle Bringas, Rudy Galvan, Rachel Jacob, and Jamie Craven.

Notes were taken by NIU CGS Director Diana Robinson and Research Associate Mim Evans.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the November 7, 2017 meeting were approved.

C. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No public participation occurred.

D. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Discussion/recommendation for appointment of Task Force Chairperson

Discussion was held by the task force for recommendation of a Chairperson. Herb Rubin was nominated and the task force agreed that his name would be forwarded to Mayor Smith. Rubin assumed the role of chair for this meeting and turned the meeting over to City Community Development staff Director Jo Ellen Charlton and Economic Development Planner Jason Michnick.

2. Review of focus areas – physical improvement and redevelopment opportunities

Charlton and Michnick began the discussion by reviewing the last 6 slides of the Nov 7th Task Force meeting that were not covered at that time. Charlton and Michnick reviewed 5 focus areas

within AGN to solicit feedback on project ideas for these focus areas. The first focus area discussed was the general area surrounding the Annie Glidden North Rd/Lucinda. Christi Krupp commented that it is a nice visible entrance to the NIU campus and suggested that artwork would be a helpful addition to this area. Tiara Huggins suggested a bike path should be paved where there is currently a cut through walking trail. Huggins stated that the walking trail is frequently used by students and other members of the community and that it should not be displaced by new structures. Task force members stated that regardless of what type of project is possibly chosen for the area, the drainage district will have to be involved so that surface water flow is not impeded as the area serves as a water retention area for surrounding buildings.

Task force members suggested taking a broad view approach to the discussion and looking at all focus areas collectively to determine what categories projects will fall into (i.e., development, crime and safety, etc.)

3. Planning of Early Action Projects

Krupp stated that the AGN/Lucinda area is one of the main entrances to campus and this area should be looked at for adding community artwork, murals, etc.

Shelly Perkins asked who owns the greenspace. The church owns it. There was discussion of limitations on its use because it is in a floodplain.

Mike Pittsley asked if the consultants were aware of the struggles businesses face when students leave for the summer. A general discussion of the need for the plan to be positive and not focus on obstacles followed. There was general discussion of the need for long and short term goals, expensive and inexpensive projects.

Krupp said that small groups focused on particular projects or areas would be helpful. Herb responded that small groups could be on the agenda for the next meeting.

The group agreed to move more quickly through the remaining subarea reports.

Ellingsworth Webb suggested that employers contribute financially to neighborhood improvements. Ellingsworth said that it is important to include people from Suburban Estates in this process even if they are outside the city limits.

David Castro said parks need to be diversified and vibrant. Patti Perkins responded that the park can be improved.

Andrew John Knox commented that students are afraid to go to the park at night. He also said that students would be willing volunteers to make improvements. This was followed by general discussion of the liability of using volunteers.

Huggins said that race is not being discussed. There was disagreement as to whether this was a major issue or overblown. There was agreement that people need to get to know each other, know each other's names.

Valerie Redmond said that families don't know about the resources available to them. They need to know where to go to informally see other families. This was followed by general discussion of the ways to spread information. Pittsley commented that this is a citywide problem. Huggins said that not everyone has internet and community information boards might help. Ecila Scaife suggested an information packet for each season.

Pittsley said that follow through has not happened for past plans. There needs to be a community liaison or czar. Need implementation resources. Tiara said University Village is trying to hire a community coordinator. Joe Gastiger suggested canvassing the neighborhood to see what people think about task force recommendations.

Dan Kenney asked if anyone is working on initiatives for installing security cameras around the community. Rubin suggested that security cameras be a topic for a sub-group of the task force. Gastiger suggested making transportation one of the primary focus areas. Webb suggested employment also be made one of the topics for more focused discussions. Chad Glover asked if Camiros can research how to increase residency during the summer while school is out of session.

Gip Seaver suggested that the Task Force start out by focusing on short-term goals such as simple place making projects. Seaver suggested Healthcare should also be a topics for focus groups/discussions.

David Castro suggested making improvements to Rotary and Welsh park to emulate Hopkins Park. Castro stated that these parks are very much in need of improvements and that this would provide much needed gathering places for residents.

Huggins suggested a project to increase seating in Welsh Park to keep people from loitering/gathering outside of the park in undesirable areas. Huggins said that Welsh Park is not laid out well to have different activities where people don't bother each other and neighbors. Gastiger suggested taking those place making projects suggested by Seaver to Welsh and Rotary parks.

Scaife suggested putting together a volunteer program that brings in diverse members of the community, including families and students, to work together on these types of projects being discussed.

Pittsley suggested that the Task Force should work on figuring out a way to communicate activities to AGN community members.

Scaife suggested that the City or another community organization create some form of "welcome wagons" to greet new residents and communicate information such as activities.

Glenn Robby suggested creating webpages to communicate community information via the internet.

4. Further Discussion Topics:

- a. Update on AGN initiatives
- b. Intended outcomes of Task Force

Charlton reminded the group that the consultants have a contract so the task force needs to stay close to those expectations. Rubin said the problem is the lack of community input into developing contracts. He said a point person is needed. City Manager Anne Marie Gaura said that Assistant City Manager Patty Hoppenstedt is the point person. Charlton suggested that Rubin meet with Camiros. Herb said he would rather wait until after the task force has committees set up. Charlton cautioned about the need to stay within the consultant's budget. Rubin said that we are looking at 3 levels of outcomes: 1. Something highly visible and completed quickly. 2. Short term implementable project. 3. Start on long term projects. Then make sure it gets done.

A discussion regarding the creation of either subcommittees or discussion groups for task force members to focus on specific focus topics mentioned above. It was determined that City staff would create and distribute a survey for task force members to choose which topics they would like to focus on as a subunit of the task force.

5. Next Steps

Management Analyst Aaron Stevens will send out a doodle scheduling survey for possible dates for the next meeting. It will be held sometime in January.

E. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Mim Evans, Research Associate, CGS

Minutes approved by the AGN Task Force Meeting on: [insert date of approval]