

MINUTES

CITY OF DEKALB

Annie Glidden North Community Services Subcommittee Meeting

Held in Dekalb City Hall Council Chambers on February 22, 2018 at 6:00 pm

The meeting was called to order at 6:15 pm.

A. Roll Call

Present were Chad Glover, Gip Seaver, Jamie Craven, Valarie Redmond, and Tiara Huggins. Also present were Jason Michnick and Lisa Bergeron.

B. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve by Gip Seaver, Seconded by Jamie Craven. The motion carried on a voice vote.

C. Public Participation

Jonathan Crail, First United Methodist Church, introduced himself to the committee and stated that First United would be constructing a new facility in the Annie Glidden North Neighborhood and was interested in hearing the discussion taking place in regards to the Revitalization Plan.

D. Items for Discussion

Awareness of what is available and convenient access to those resources are important but lacking in the AGN neighborhood.

Awareness/education

Compile an inventory of resources, programs, educational opportunities, housing and rights, workforce development and the like. Develop a packet of resources, services, tools, and a marketing/distribution plan.

Access

Ensure programs are delivered in a way that is accessible for AGN residents. Part of the solution is better transportation and bringing programs and services into the neighborhood.

Examples of past attempts that were not as effective include having the farmers market and/or food too far away for residents to get it home.

Public transit is not sufficient to provide adequate access for some of these programs.

Access is hindered by lack of community space in the AGN neighborhood where programs and services can be delivered. Programs and services are available in the greater DeKalb area but AGN residents may not be able to get to them.

The AGN neighborhood needs a commons area to be the destination for programs and services. Camp Powel was a success because it came to AGN.

Transit/transportation is a barrier to accessing services and support opportunities. Need to develop transportation systems and deliver programs in the community. Currently planning for merging of VAC and Husky line to expand funding and coverage.

Another challenge is permanent versus temporary residents. Students are only around for 9 months so it makes it hard to bring in programs and services given the seasonality of some residents.

Job Opportunities

Lack of jobs and access to jobs are barriers. Coupling employment opportunities with transportation is needed because even if an AGN resident finds a job, they may not have reliable transportation to work.

Either bring new employers into the area or expand transportation options so residents can get to the jobs. VAC has on demand shuttle services but the challenge is figuring out the clusters of residents and job locations. Need to work with the employers to help identify workers and shifts that align.

Job fairs are currently focused on students. Need a job fair for AGN non-student residents. Have employers come to AGN. Then need to couple with transportation.

Child care cost and availability

Where child care may be available, there are often wait lists. For second or third shift jobs, there are little to no options for daycare. A proposed community building could offer daycare across multiple shifts.

Community Center

Community Center - build in space for child care, healthcare, training programs, and other services.

However, transforming the theater into community building or building a new one presents a funding issue. City owns the building but needs to find a sustainable purpose. Committee members discussed frustration because the same issues come up year over year, solutions to provide services to the community are known, yet the block of funding still exists. Need a plan for funding and sustaining a community building and making an investment in the community to create value and change the dynamics that currently exist.

Can we partner with churches or schools as a temporary solution to bringing services and programs directly to the community.

Awareness Campaign

What is the most immediate issue that the City could address that would show residents the good faith effort to make an improvement? Develop an education/awareness

campaign to inform AGN residents on programs, services, and job opportunities, including bus routes.

Leverage social Connections in an awareness campaign. Effective communication strategies may include door to door, printed, online, or phone. Due to the demographics of the neighborhoods, a multi modal approach will be required such as flyers, handouts, information bags, as well as text messaging and websites. Could we leverage NIU as resource for assessing marketing strategies?

Information to include in the awareness campaign; employment opportunities, transportation options, bus routes, workforce training, healthcare, child care, etc.

Next agenda:

- Awareness campaign
- What is the best method for communicating
- What information do we want to share
- Success Story – Camp Powel

Next meeting, Thursday 3/1 at 6:15 pm

- E. Adjournment
Move to adjourn by Tiara Evans, seconded by Chad Glover. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Minutes by Lisa Kaye Bergeron, Center for Governmental Studies

Minutes approved by the AGN Community Services Subcommittee: March 15, 2018