

MINUTES

CITY OF DEKALB

Annie Glidden North Community Services Subcommittee Meeting

Held in Dekalb City Hall Executive Conference Room on March 7, 2018 at 6:15 pm

The meeting was called to order at 6:22 pm by Jamie.

A. Roll Call

Present from the Annie Glidden North Community Services Subcommittee were Chad Glover, Herb Rubin, Gip Seaver, Jamie Craven, Valarie Redmond, Tiara Huggins, and Dan Kenney. Also present were Jason Michnick and Lisa Bergeron.

B. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve by Chad Glover, Seconded by Herb Rubin. Motion carried on a voice vote.

C. Public Participation

D. Items for Discussion

1. Overview of University Village Social Service Proposal

Jason provided an overview of the proposal to the Committee. When UV was sold and rezoned, City renegotiated \$500,000 over a 15-year period dedicated to social services in the geographic area. The City is working on a strategy to spend those resources in conjunction with CDBG funds and City General Funds for human services agencies in the area.

The City released an RFP for and is considering a proposal from Family Service Agency whose proposal included year-round programming. Other agencies partnering in the proposal include Adventure Works, DeKalb County Community Gardens, Kishwaukee Community College, IL Worknet and 4Cs. FSA will have an onsite case manager and coordinate all other organization activities. UV is also building a community room which can be used for these programs/services. Agencies will do a baseline survey will track outcomes annually. Metrics for the programs are outcome based rather than quantity.

The Adventure Works program will provide positive youth development programs focused on outdoor programming and will be running 1 day per week. Community Gardens will focus on food access and engaging youth in training on soft skills for jobs and growing foods. They will increase the number of onsite gardens from four now and are fundraising for a "Growmobile" to deliver foods to places of residence. Kishwaukee College and Illinois WorkNet will be providing employment orientations at UV with a counselor who will audit skills and align with job opportunities and employers. If no alignment, they will have opportunities for training programs at KCC. The County Health Department will offer income eligible programs like blood testing, family planning, Medicaid and insurance enrollment assistance, and others. They will be coordinating these programs and transportation to and

from the events. When feasible, they will come on site to UV in the community center as well. 4Cs will be providing early childhood development programs.

A suggestion was made to include other programs like voter registration services and enrollment in the Tenants Association.

Other suggested programs the neighborhood could benefit from were mental health and daycare services.

Concerns were raised regarding the WorkNet jobs which are often outside the city. With the existing transportation issues, focus needs to be on employers more proximal to the AGN neighborhood.

Another partner that could be part of this is NIU leveraging day care, health care, and other linkages like bringing together nursing studies with health care needs of the community. School of Nursing is right on the fringe of AGN footprint and have been willing and interested in the past in collaborating and finding opportunities for student practicum hours.

The committee discussed the need for a communication plan to generate awareness on programs and offerings. Part of the role of the case manager will be to serve in this type of role but concerns were expressed on how much workload is being planned for a part time position.

The committee discussed a feedback loop from the residents receiving the services. Will they be able to provide input? A suggestion was made to survey residents 6 months to one year into the program or create an ongoing feedback loop. Residents receiving the services should have a role in assessing the program. The baseline survey in the proposal was geared toward that end. A suggestion was made to build an advisory board that includes residents to oversee and contribute to the implementation of the programs. Tenants Association could be a vehicle in serving an advisory role for the programs.

How can we strengthen organizations like the Tenants Association and build similar in other regions of AGN?

The committee discussed building an inventory of training programs and linking to employment opportunities of which can lead to identifying gaps. The case manager was discussed as a key in inventorying needs of residents and linking to available programs.

The committee discussed transportation as a key to linking residents to job opportunities. This is being addressed by Transportation Committee. First Student could be engaged to address the transportation issue until the broader NIU and VAC merger can be implemented.

The committee discussed changing the dynamic on jobs and employment by starting with the skills of existing AGN residents then building programs and skills needed for available job opportunities. Transportation is an example as bus drivers will be needed for expansion in transportation and routes. Another employment opportunity could be daycare services through 4Cs.

Suggestion was made to leverage the task force participants and the residents to demonstrate a presence in the community, distributing information, connecting residents to job. At present, there is little awareness of the AGN task force activities.

A request was made to establish a vehicle to share minutes across the AGC sub committees distributed by email or other option rather than just on the website.

2. Discussion of Community Services in the Annie Glidden North neighborhood

- a. Continuation of establishing desired outcomes
 - i. Communication/awareness campaign
 - ii. Build and link neighborhood organizations
 - iii. Engage NIU as a partner in programs and services
 - iv. Expand to other partners like churches
 - v. Expand community Involvement
 - vi. Provide daycare options, particularly for second or third shifts
 - vii. Provide a walk-in clinic or urgent care facility

- b. Identifying projects and actions
 - i. Develop a communication/awareness campaign. Use of kiosks or community bulletin boards. Social events for connecting with families.
 - ii. Inventory skills of UV and other AGN residents – what exists. Asset development, measure what assets are already in the community.
 - iii. Identify training and employment gaps. Inventory workforce/training programs, employers linked to those programs, job openings, and then find gaps.
 - iv. Expand short and long-term transportation options like shuttle service, Uber, or leveraging employers

Next meeting will be identified via Doodle

E. Adjournment

Move to adjourn by Chad Glover, seconded by Gip Seaver. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Minutes by Lisa Kaye Bergeron, Center for Governmental Studies

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