

Housing Committee Meeting
Thursday, April 9th
7PM
Neighborhood Design Center
1401 Hollins St.

Present

Anne Ames
Edith Gilliard Canty
Christina Englemann
Diana Geiss
Roshelle Kades
Haeng Hyun Kim
Bill Marker
Nancy McCormick
Michael Mellett
Robert Meyer
Roger Miller
Larry Nelson
Lou Packett
Jamie Pitts (Chair)
Khandra Sears
Michael Studdart
Rason Taru
Zarva Taru
Elizabeth Weber

I. Welcome and Introductions

This is the Housing Committee, one of the five committees of the Southwest Partnership. The Southwest Partnership is made up of seven neighborhood associations and six anchor institutions. As Jamie is relatively new to the committee and there were a number of people there who had been involved for varying lengths of time he asked everyone to go around the room and introduce themselves, including how long they had been involved in the committee. Attendees ranged from those attending their first Southwest Partnership meeting to those who had been involved in the Southwest Partnership since the beginning approximately three years ago.

Anne Ames: first time attending the Housing Committee, was involved with the SWP early on; Bill Marker involved with SWP early on, has come to the Housing Committee 4 or 5 times, Larry has been attending approximately 1.5 years, Robert Meyer for about a year, Michael Mellett is with the Irish Railroad Workers Museum and has been coming for about the past year, Diana Geiss has been around since the beginning (2 or 3 years ago), Edith Gillard Canty has been attending for about a year, Nancy McCormick has been attending off and on since it started, Elizabeth Weber is the SWP intern and has attended every meeting since September, Christina Englemann has been attending off and on for about three years, Michael Studdart started attending a year and half ago off an on, Haeng is at a meeting for the first time, but has owned

Southwest Partnership

Barre Circle + Franklin Square + Hollins Roundhouse
+ Pigtown + Poppleton + Union Square + Mount Clare

the B&O Tavern for about three years and wants to meet the neighborhood leadership, Lou Packett is at his third meeting, Roger Miller has been a resident for about 35 years, this is his first housing committee meeting and he's concerned about disparity in housing assessments in the neighborhood; Rason and Zarva Taru have been to the Housing Committee a couple times, have attended Union Square meetings for many years, Khandra Sears is at her second housing committee meeting.

II. Live Baltimore! Buy Into Baltimore Event May 9th

Jamie—Live Baltimore's Buy into Baltimore event will be May 9th, at Edmonson Westside, High School as the organization wants to focus on West Baltimore for this event. One of the tours of available houses after the morning event will be through the Southwest Partnership neighborhoods. The Live Baltimore Buy Into Baltimore event is a chance for prospective homebuyers to learn about neighborhoods and for neighborhood association to sell their neighborhoods before attendees choose one tour (either a bus tour or a self-guided walking/driving tour) of houses for sale.

Christina Engelmann has been working to find properties that will be appropriate for the event and has submitted a list to Live Baltimore. Homes for Live Baltimore need to be unoccupied, listed with a realtor, and move-in ready, and Christina focused on homes that were over \$100,000 in order to make the list easier to handle but if community members know of houses that are move in ready, unoccupied, and under \$100,000 they could communicate with Christina. There will be three 'official' houses chosen for the bus tour, but we won't know these until closer to the event because they will have to be available on the day. There will also be other houses listed that attendees who are driving themselves or walking will be able to visit as they will also be open that day. They will be marked with purple balloons. The Mount Clare Mansion will be the community stop/jumping off point for the tours, and the Mansion is providing extra staffing, coupon incentives for the event.

At the morning event at the high school the Southwest Partnership will have its own table (for free as it is such a new organization), and each neighborhood association will also be able to have their own tables as well. The neighborhood association tables are free—they only need to submit a \$50 deposit. The seven neighborhood tables and the SWP table will be grouped next to each other. Each neighborhood association will be informed that the SWP will have a table, and asked if they would like to have one as well or have their information at the SWP table.

Robert has been at past events for Hollins Roundhouse and reported that the most important things were to be charming, social, and friendly and sell the neighborhood. Zarva suggested having old literature from past activities and events that take place in the neighborhood. In the past Hollins Roundhouse and Union Square have had slide shows that have been successful. Each neighborhood association will need up to two people staffing their table and the SWP will need people as well—an email can be sent out asking for volunteers.

III. Realtor Happy Hour April 23rd

Christina—there are two companies, a title company (SageTitle) and a mortgage company that will be sponsoring food and sangria for the event. It will be at Mi Ranchito Thursday the 23rd from 5-7pm. The sub-committee has invited every realtor they can think of and expect about 20-

southwestpartnershipbaltimore.org

southwestpartnershipbaltimore@gmail.com

Southwest Partnership

Barre Circle + Franklin Square + Hollins Roundhouse
+ Pigtown + Poppleton + Union Square + Mount Clare

30 to attend. They are going to have signs and information about the neighborhoods, so that when realtors are called about the neighborhoods (especially after the May 9th Live Baltimore event) they will be able to talk about the neighborhood. Homebuyers are especially interested in the schools, activities, parks, and shopping (which the neighborhood has a lot of—Price Rite and Hollins Market). The committee would like one person from each neighborhood to be there representing the neighborhood and—they should know a lot about the neighborhood and be able to speak positively about it. This person may also be interested in being the 'know-it-all' for the Live Baltimore website. Khandra suggested that Elizabeth email the SWP neighborhood representatives asking them to either attend or suggest a representative. The planning committee wants the event to be primarily for realtors, rather than the community, and for it to be unstructured and social. Jamie will give a welcome as the Chair of the Housing Committee, and then the attendees will have a chance to mingle and chat.

IV. Southwest Partnership, Inc. Update

An offer has been made to the Executive Director, but the Board hasn't heard yet about acceptance or not. The Board is now complete—Stacy Smith was elected chair of the Commercial Development Committee. The next board meeting will be **Tuesday April 21st at the BioPark (801 W Baltimore St) at 7PM**, and everyone is invited.

Michael Mellett asked if the SWP had 501c3 status—it does not have status itself, but can accept grants and tax deductible donations through Fusion Partnerships, which provides the tax status as well as bookkeeping, payroll, and back office support.

V. Discussion on Committee Expectations, Communication and Inclusion

Jamie would like to know what the attendees expectations are—what would they like to discuss at meetings, what information would they like shared with them, what do they expect meetings to look like.

Rason would like the committee to be able to lobby the city to take vacant houses and lot into receivership

Roger, at the beginning of the meeting, said that he would like the committee to focus on code enforcement. Rason agreed, but added that there should be benefits, as well as penalties to following code. Bill said that code enforcement has always fallen under the purview of the neighborhood associations, and that it shouldn't be the SWP's place to take that over—rather they could provide resources and information about code enforcement.

Bill is interested in seeing the development of market rate senior housing, which had support in the committee, and also suggested that it would be worthwhile to have representatives from the anchor institutions attending the committee meetings.

Michael S. was interested in being able to make development less cumbersome, although there was emphasis throughout the committee that the neighborhoods will always still be consulted and the committee would have to take the lead from them in terms of development.

Jamie asked if the committee would be interested in hearing reports from a city level, such as when Vacants to Values homes were bid on. It is much for doable for the city to report to one organization than to seven, and the housing committee could pass the information along to the neighborhoods.

Southwest Partnership

Barre Circle + Franklin Square + Hollins Roundhouse
+ Pigtown + Poppleton + Union Square + Mount Clare

Zarva wanted to make sure that smaller community groups, other than the original seven neighborhood associations, were included and informed—Edith added that there is another community association (Pen Lucy) within Franklin Square.

The committee was also very interested in having guest speakers, especially from the city, come to share information. Rashan suggested Reggie Shriver from Code Enforcement. Anyone with other suggestions should contact Jamie.

In general, the role of the committee is still very tenuous, but the attendees felt it should be **a place for community associations to access resources and information** (such as from guest speakers) and **a way to share ideas and resources across communities**. The Southwest Partnership, because it is a coalition of neighborhoods and anchor institutions can access resources and information to support community associations and be a way for them to combine their collective voice, but it can't take the decision making power away from the associations.

Elizabeth asked how people would like to receive meeting minutes—attendees liked the idea of being directly mailed minutes of meetings they attended, but also liked a consolidated place where minutes could be found rather than emailed directly).

VI. Announcements

Community Health Fair-- Saturday from 12-5 PM at the Urban Business Center (1200 W. Baltimore St.) offering insurance, dental services, HIV, other important health information, job training, nutrition and fitness advice, blood pressure screening, and lunch

There will be a Concert for Fair Development April 25th 3pm at Benjamin Franklin High School. Flyers have been posted around the community and it looks relevant to the SWP's interests.

Next Meeting May 14th at NDC (1401 Hollins Street) at 7pm