

**West Side Neighborhood Initiative  
Neighborhood Planning Session #1  
DATE: October 27, 2014**

**Proposed AGENDA**

- Welcome and Introductions
  - Vision/Mission
  - Review 2006 Plan – Accomplishments and “Still to do” (or not)
  - Nominal Group Technique for Action Planning
    - Silent Generation of Ideas
    - Round Robin Recording
    - Clarification
    - Discussion/Combination
    - Prioritizing – Voting with colored dots and stars for residents
  - Top Three (or so) PRIORITIES and Next Steps
  - Closing Thoughts and “Share a ‘gem’!”
- ADJOURN

As part of their regular monthly meeting, the West Side Neighborhood Initiative Steering Committee spent some time thinking together about action planning. It was decided to go forward with the process as far as identifying concrete projects to move forward, trying to clarify those, and continue with discussion/combination and prioritizing at the next monthly meeting.

**The 2006 Plan** was briefly reviewed. It was noted that much had been accomplished, and there are some larger projects currently underway, most notably the Greenway, which was another agenda item at this meeting, with architectural drawings to review. There was a brief discussion about the importance of having short and long-term objectives as part of a planning process.

**The Vision** of the West Side Neighborhood Initiative is

- REBUILDING THE WEST SIDE:
- Safe, Clean, Healthy and Strong.
- It takes ALL of us!

The question for this planning session is “**How do we get THERE from HERE?**” ---

**Silent Generation of Ideas and ROUND-ROBIN Recording (Results on next page) – to be clarified, discussed and prioritized at next meeting.**

- Cleaner West Side
- Push River Way Project to End
- Better Lighting on Corners
- Empower Youth with Healthy Life Education
- Business/Neighborhood Gathering
- Neighborhood-Friendly Businesses
- Involve Communities of Faith located in West Side Neighborhood
- Trainings for Community Programs
- Support Small Businesses – Seminars
- 20% Increase in Home Ownership
- Strengthen Code Enforcement to Address Blight
- Youth Volunteers to Help Elderly
- Welcome Packets for New Residents
- Plan for Vacant Lots – to Fruition
- Development of Nature Trail Between St. Mark and Conte Community Schools
  - Involve STEM program (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics)
- More Walk-in Addictions Counseling
- Neighborhood Policing
- Programs for Youth
- Youth Commission-Connection
- Visiting Nurses – Neighborhood Health and Wellness Screening
- Resume Tree Planting
- Interesting Walking Routes (Attractively Marked, Historic, Environmentally-friendly)
- Invest in Maintaining Parks and Playgrounds
- Community Center
- Literacy Program for all – Research What Already Exists
- Sidewalk Survey for Walkability
- Stronger Social Media Presence
- Attend City Council Meetings
- Two Trash Pick-ups per Week
- Deal with Vacant Buildings
- More Resident Engagement
- Increase Programs at Community Gardens (especially Robbins Ave.)
- City Councilor involvement
- Strip Mall

Wendy's thoughts about process, and how to proceed:

I may like to ask the group to establish some ground rules before beginning this time. I also think that during the "clarification" process, it is important that those who know what already exists play a key role in that step. Also – there are many things on this list that are conceptual, rather than actual concrete projects that can be completed. I recommend that they either be made into very clear action items, or that they be removed from the list. It is also possible that as we discuss and combine, they will fall into appropriate categories.

I see a few clear themes:

- 1) Youth
- 2) Businesses
- 3) Parks and Recreation/Infrastructure
- 4) Vacant Lots and Buildings
- 5) Civic/Social/Faith Community Engagement