Minutes: Restore Rundberg Community Meeting

Community Care Center

835 W Rundberg Ln

July 23, 2015

7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

Call to Order: 7:04pm

**In Attendance**

Team Members & Designees: Aida Cerda-Prazak, Ming Chu, Monica Guzmán, Roberto Perez, Erica Saenz, Ann Teich, Randy Teich

APD: Baker, Bazzle, McClure, Kianes, Ballesteros, White, Soliz

UT: Hernandez, Yuma, Marshall

**Public Comment-**

* Julia Foree requested prostitution initiative to be designated as a separate priority. She identified that the topic differs from homelessness and would benefit if separated. Erica Saenz reported the Restore Rundberg Revitalization Team will need to ask Priority Area 5 if anyone would be willing to volunteer to lead the separate issue.
* Update on Grant Administrative Position- Interviews took place today for the Community Engagement Outreach Coordinator position. An announcement of who will be hired for the position is pending.

**Rundberg Rockstar-**

* Riley McGarity was acknowledged and awarded for doing exemplary work on the Restore Rundberg project by going to Cook and Woolridge Elementary and picking up trash. She was assisted by her mother Karen McGarity.

**Austin Healthy Eating, Active Living Program-**

Edwin Marty, Adrienne Lipscombe, and Laura Deerfield presented an initiative through City of Austin and CAP Metro

* They are currently in the planning phase of grant for active living and healthy eating.
* The Latino Healthcare Forum, The Office of Sustainability and Imagine Austin are partnering to include a broader Austin area to increase food access and food security for children and families. They’ve identified that 50% of children in the area are food insecure. They have been identifying the food system in the area and are preparing a district food planning process. The North Austin and Restore Rundberg area will be identified as a pilot community, with projections to increase local food purchasing by 5%, provide food access maps, and provide community engagement around healthy living options. Currently Austin is only consuming 1% local food. Their aims are also to address recovering/reducing food waste, growing food, reducing food waste, access to affordable food. The program plans to partner with SNAP and implement the double dollar system to allow for food to be more affordable for families.
* CAP Metro and the Austin Transportation Department are aligning to help Austinites to increase physical activity, awareness around different transportation options and increase positive attitudes toward active transportation. They have been mapping the area and are locating bus stops, schools, community gardens, famers markets, emergency feeding shelters, composting facilities, food pantries, religious landmarks and buildings, and other community focused businesses/agencies. The goals through the Austin Transportation Department are to increase physical activity, walking, public transit, biking, ease access to community locations, and increase safety.
* Community engagement and outreach will be taking place over the next 6 months. The project will be teaming up with LBJ School of Public Policy to interview community members to gather information regarding maps, prioritizing issues around food, and transportation system needs. Surveys will be mailed out to neighborhoods to gather this information.
* On August 13, 2015, at 5:30 pm there will be an Open House for SMART trips (a toolkit for community engagement and evaluation. Community members are invited to participate and volunteer in events. Motivational Interviewing training for volunteers will take place on August 27. (Aug 5 update: Open House/Training to be rescheduled)

**The University of Texas at Austin Update-**

* Crime statistics from April 2012- mid June 2013 were compared to April 2014- mid June 2015. In comparing these time frames, crime for the entire grant area is down 2.2% on a whole.  
    
  In the three hot spots receiving the Mobile Walking Beat (community policing intervention) there has been:  
  38% reduction in violent crime  
  11% reduction in property crime  
  11.6% reduction in all crime
* Due to the needs identified by the community as a result of the homicides and other violent property crimes within the last year, there will be an expansion to include a new hotspot in the Georgian and Powell area. Preliminary work is being done before launching, to include a community meeting to discuss techniques to discourage prostitution in the area. A built environment assessment using a Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design tool will be utilized to capture information. Assessment of the area will take place starting at Gethsemane Lutheran Church and will be completed by Austin Police Department District Representatives, City Code Representatives, City Transportation Representatives, and UT Restore Rundberg Research Team Members. Updated information regarding the inclusion of the new Hotspot 4 will be provided at upcoming community meetings.
* Cal Streeter’s class has created a matrix to prioritize properties which may be eligible for rehabilitation. The students plan to present their findings at one of the upcoming community meetings.
* AISD Surveys have been completed, gathered and are being uploaded for analysis. Results from survey data are still pending.

**Community Engagement-**

* Longhorn Center for Civic Engagement is directing The Project, which is a year-long community project UT students participate in for academic service learning. Students will be meeting with asset partners and neighborhood associations to connect and enhance local resources. The Project has provided work in beautification and will assess the Rundberg area to identify projects of need.
* Melinda Schiera, co-president of NACA is currently applying for City grants for a 2016 bridge beautification project which will focus its efforts on 12 local bridges. She is requesting a letter from the Restore Rundberg team to assist with the application for funding. The UT Restore Rundberg Research Team agreed to provide a supporting letter.
* Jeff Travillion informed that the Neighborhood Enhancement Team (NET) - Austin department-wide groups and Austin Code – is meeting monthly to identify all activities within the 17 departments working with the Restore Rundberg Initiative. They have created 7 working groups (Crime/Nuisance Abatement, Public Safety/Structures-Land, Interdepartmental Working, Code/Austin Resource Recovery, Health/Community Care, Housing the Hardest to Serve, Economic Development) aligned with the Restore Rundberg Priorities. There will be a presentation to City Hall in August following budget.
* R.E.A.D. Update-
* 3 subgroups have been formed to include Communication, Beautification, and a Youth Resources team.
* DR Kianes identified that the work group has completed their logo and participating schools are working on school-wide t-shirts that include the logo to facilitate neighborhood pride and solidarity.
* On September 12, 500-700 church members are scheduled to volunteer on a beautification project at Dobie Middle School. They are planning on painting the inside and outside of the school, planting trees, and building pathways. They have reported needing assistance with lumber, approximating about $2000 worth.
* An Art Project to beautify the area is also being planned. Utility boxes in the Rundberg Area have been identified and are scheduled to be painted and include artwork.

**Public Comment-**

* Ann Teich reported that the Housing Affordability work group has been looking at properties to rehabilitate and recently met with Council Member Houston to discuss the issue. The work group is identifying affordable housing and waiting for an update on the following:
* Royce Mulholland, President and CEO of The Mulholland Group LLC, rehabbed The Palms on Lamar, and is in the process of rehabbing Cross Creek Apts (located on Rutland Dr).
* Neighborhood housing development reports there is funding available for rehabbing process but still need to investigate property owners who may be eligible and are willing to participate in the rehab process.
* The Latino HealthCare Forum is scheduled to meet with CM Greg Casar on August 3, and later that day present to the Health and Human Services Committee

***Adjourn- 8:32pm***

**Next Meeting:**

Restore Rundberg Community Meeting

The Settlement Home

1607 Colony Creek Dr

August 27, 2015

7:00pm - 8:30pm

Restore Rundberg Team Meeting @ 6:30pm