

## Restore Rundberg Community Meeting

Location: The Settlement Home for Children, Williamson Conference Center  
1607 B Colony Creek Dr.

Date: March 27, 2014

Start: 1800 (6:00pm)

End: 19:30 (7:30pm)

### Attendees Present:

Erica Saenz (Place 6) - Chairman

Roberto Perez Jr. (Place 14) – Co Chair

Margaret Valenti (Place 1)

Linda Kruger (Place 2)

Don Shepard (Place 3)

Brian Almon (Place 4)

Ann Teich (Place 5)

Patricia Zavala (Place 8)

Rick Randall (Place 9)

Michael Willard (Place 10)

Donald Baker (Place 11)

Sandra Brown (Place 12) Designee

Mary Jo Hernandez (Place 13)

Additional Guests – 37 present

June Lujan (APD) – Recording Secretary

### Meeting called to order at 6:00pm

### Public Comments

A request was made for more Spanish speaking officers to patrol the Rundberg area.

A request was made to start public meetings at a later time to allow for better attendance.

### New Business:

#### 1. Restore Rundberg Implementation Plan and Research Report

A presentation was made by both Lt Allen McClure of APD and Dr. David Springer of UT on the implementation and current progress of the grant.

Dr. Springer

- a. Circulated a draft of survey that UT will be distributing in the coming months. He asked for feedback and suggestions of locations that it could be given to the public. Some responses were: parent nights at schools, community meetings, street distribution in area hot spots, Restore Rundberg website, and HEB
- b. Kyle Pitzer will be completing an inventory of resources available to meet the RRT priorities. These resources include physical assets, existing programs, businesses, and community groups.
- c. Reiteration of the focus on youth as part of the social services offered under the grant. Currently 30% of the RRT population is under the age of seventeen. Concentrating on this group will help ensure the future of the entire area.
- d. Social services involving mental health clients. This population makes a large percentage of the homeless individuals in the area.

Lt. Allen McClure

- a. Gave information on the proposed hiring of a Community Liaison
- b. Updated the starting date of April 5<sup>th</sup> for the Mobile Hot Spot Walking Beat
- c. Gave an overview of the Apartment & Landlord Coalition that will look at opportunities to improve the quality of life for residents.

## **2. Hispanic Leadership Group (Presentation)**

Stephen Potter gave information on a seminar they are hosting at the YMCA on March 29, 2014. The seminar is called the bridge and discusses the impact of education on the community at large. The team also spoke on their work through the Nextdoor program to organize the CEO for a day program at Dobie Middle School. This event would allow at risk youth to shadow a local business leader to gain prospective in what opportunities are available for them.

## **3. APD Action Items**

Lt. McClure included this information in his presentation given earlier

## **Old Business**

### **4. Updates: Priorities 1-4**

#### **a. Priority 1 – Submitted by Brian Almon**

Discussed the vacant properties behind Thomas Buffet on Lamar and the old Hop Zone building off of Rutland. Owners of these properties need to be encouraged to repair the fences on their properties. Also discussed the activity around the shopping center on the northwest corner of Lamar and Rutland. African-American males are congregating behind the shopping center (Bob's Barber Shop) and adjacent to the Whataburger on the corner. These men are soliciting money from patrons at the food establishment, but they do not panhandle on street corners. Also, it appears that they are transacting some business with cars that come into the area. Officer Adam Soliz, Austin Police Region 2 (E4) District Representative, mentioned that some of the homeless that have been displaced in the Rutland area have moved to a vacant, wooded property behind the strip shopping center on Braker, west of the intersection with Lamar.

#### **b. Priority 2 – Submitted Mary Jo Hernandez**

Objective:

To ensure awareness of and access to high quality physical, mental/behavioral healthcare for all adults, children and seniors living in the Restore Rundberg area. Consider the need for additional health facilities for the neighborhood.

Present: Mary Jo Hernandez, Ann Teich, Monica Guzman, Chelsea Brass, Nino Bariola, Carl Webb, Julia Foree, Christine Whitney, Margarito Flores

Discussed

1. Other possible locations of a healthcare facility due to the small size and poor access of the Lola site. The Lola site is also contiguous with a lovely wooded area on Sam Rayburn which is already unofficially being used as parkland and would be an excellent site for a neighborhood park which is desperately needed in the area.

Other sites mentioned included large properties near IH 35 on Powell Lane and a property accessible from San Jose.

2. The importance of addressing mental health and substance abuse as well as urgent care in any neighborhood care plan. Other services noted were assessing adequacy of geriatric care, dental, eye, diabetes, hypertension, specialty care.
3. Having a healthcare needs assessment for the Rundberg area is critical to further progress.
4. Addressing the lack of awareness of available services. Barriers include multiple foreign languages, lack of English speaking or reading competency, fear of police exacerbated by ICE in the County jail and the undocumented status of a large number of residents and/or their family members, illiteracy, lack of access to the internet
5. Achieving significant community involvement by those in greatest need. What is the function of the community organizer to be hired by APD under grant financing?
6. Contacting Central Health- Larry Wallace and Mark Hernandez MD
7. Understanding the health and family resource services offered at area schools
8. Involve area businesses
9. Involve faith communities - Gethsemane Lutheran, St Mark's Methodist, Austin Revival Church
10. Awareness of conditions at Santa Maria apts. which house a large number of new immigrants
11. Awareness of new IDEA charter school to be built behind Showplace Lanes
12. Summary of Byrne grant dates and description: less than \$200,000 for revitalization over 2014-15 (includes APD hiring a community organizer)

c. **Priority 3 – Submitted by Roberto Perez**

We started with a brief discussion about Restore Rundberg. Some people were attending the meeting for the first time.

Roberto Perez Jr. shared:

Action Items:

1. Identify schools in the area and Feeder schools (list)
2. Create list of contacts at different schools (Elementary, Middle, HS)
3. Identify existing programs at these schools
  - a. In school
  - b. After school
4. Identify resources to support programs:
  - a. Identify ways to support programs through training for youth, staff and parents
5. Identify new programs and resources
6. Identify ways to increase participation with current programs
  - a. Community, business leaders, parents, and students
7. Identify summer programs

Final Date: August 2014

Roberto Perez Jr. also shared the 2013 AISD school assignment map and the schools in the area. We reviewed the current service providers in the area. There was a consensus in the group that we needed to verify all the programs that were found via [www.ysm-austin.org](http://www.ysm-austin.org)

We collected contact information to continue working on basecamp.

**d. Priority 4 – Submitted by Linda Kruger**

Following discussions with Code Compliance, the Priority 4 team, and APD, 12 properties were identified as significant offenders in code violations. A Public Information Request on these top 12 properties is being prepared by the City of Austin's Code Compliance Department. The team will track the status of these properties to ensure that repeat offenders are registered and responses are appropriate and timely. Suggestions for sustainability are included in the tracking spreadsheet. Updates will continue to be provided to the Restore Rundberg Revitalization Team.

(A copy of the presentation is included in the Team meeting notes dated 3/13/14.

**Meeting adjourned**