

Restore Rundberg Neighborhood Meeting

Location: Gethsemane Lutheran Church, 200 West Anderson Lane

Date: December 12, 2013

Start: 1810 (6:10pm)

End: 1930 (7:30pm)

The meeting was facilitated by Erica Saenz –Chairman of the Revitalization Rundberg Team

1. The choir from Guerrero Thompson Elementary School provided holiday music.
2. Introduction of Revitalization Team Members:
 - a. Erica Saenz – Place 5, Higher Education
 - b. Mary Jo Hernandez – Place 13, Community Health
 - c. Margaret Valenti – Place 1, City of Austin Neighborhood Planning
 - d. Patricia Zavala – Place 8, Immigrant Community
 - e. Don Shepard – Place 3, North Lamar/Georgian Acres Neighborhood Planning
 - f. Anne Teich – Place 6, Elementary through High School Education
 - g. Linda Kruger – Place 2, Heritage Hills/Windsor Hills Neighborhood Planning
 - h. Brian Almon – Place 4, North Austin Civic Association Neighborhood Planning
 - i. Michael Willard – Place 10, Affordable Housing/Homeless Prevention
 - j. Robert Perez – Place 7, Hispanic Leadership
 - k. Rick Randall – Place 9, Faith Based
 - l. Commander Donald Baker – Place 11, Public Safety
3. Lisa Hinely kicked off the panel presentation by the North Lamar Contact Team giving an overview of the area. She then turned the microphone over to her committee members for input.
 - a. Nick Haigh, Manager, Santa Maria Apartments: Spoke on the problems associated with apartment communities in the North Lamar area. There are two types of complexes- government-subsidized housing and older properties which have become rundown due to lack of maintenance. He spoke about cleaning up these complexes and restoring pride in living conditions thereby reducing crime.
 - b. Gilma Sanchez, Principal of Barrington Elementary: Spoke on the value of community support to schools As well as how early intervention can make a substantial difference in a child's life.
 - c. Llovizna Yo: Asked that the grant address the needs of single mothers by providing social services for at-risk children.

- d. Hector Diaz, 10th Street Bible Group: As a faith-based assembly, his group offered assistance in community outreach and support.
 - e. Patricia Zavala, Workers Defense Project: Introduced Spanish-speaking immigrants who highlighted the issues affecting their population. These included: – wage theft, crime, fear of deportation, fear of police officers, need for more bilingual 911 operators and officers, and outreach for female immigrant population.
4. Dr. David Springer presented the results of the University of Texas study on the areas associated with the grant program. He developed five strategic points that the grant should address to have positive results:
- a. Persistent Crime
 - b. Physical and Social Disorder
 - c. Community Engagement (including cultural and linguistic barriers)
 - d. Improved Relations with the Austin Police Department
 - e. At-risk Youth

As part of the research, UT has determined objectives that would be efficient in the completion of these needs:

- a. Rotate an APD Mobile Walking Beat through “hot spots” , giving an increased police presence in high crime areas.
 - b. Hire a Community Organizer to leverage and improve the engagement of all member organizations and individuals within the revitalization area.
 - c. Build an apartment/landlord coalition to address the condition and appearance of area.
 - d. Implement the RISE (Refugee & Immigrant Safety Education) program which has been successful in other areas of the city.
 - e. Initiate youth development programs for at-risk Hispanic youth.
5. Lindsey Hutchinson of the Multicultural Refugee Coalition introduced herself. The MRC has recently opened an office at the Santa Maria Apartments.
6. The meeting concluded with a brief discussion of the topics presented.