

## Housing CAT Meeting: January 16, 2007

**Attendance:** Steven Schoonover, Tom Gamel, Diana Vakharia, Mary Croft, Barb Niehaus, Ken Smith, Sister Sally Duffy, Pat Bruns, Todd Blersch, Kathryn Ann Connelly, Jeff Cramerding, H.A. Musser, Frank Hollister, Matt Strauss

### **Topic #1:** Kroger Update

**Summary:** Human Nature / Mark Jones are meeting January 18<sup>th</sup> to plan the design of the streetscape. EPHIA has written a letter to Kroger requesting salvageable items be preserved and possibly installed into the new store.

### **Topic #2:** Wilsonia Update

**Summary:** West Scaife has been selected as the lead contractor. PHW is currently waiting to hear from Dennis Finney.

### **Topic #3:** Homeowner Preservation Group

#### **Summary:**

- The next meeting is January 22<sup>nd</sup> (3-4 and 4-5pm) at United Way. Chris Bortz will be in attendance.
- County finalized budget --\$100,000 foreclosure counseling.
- Requests are out for lender support.
- There will be an article published on Saturday in the Enquirer.
- There will be a public conference on these issues. (8:30am-noon) At Cincinnati-Hamilton County Community Action Agency (Robinson Auditorium; 1740 Langdon Farm Rd. 45237)

### **Topic #4:** Whittier Gardens/HDAP

**Summary:** Legal Aid, LISC, Santa Maria, Cincinnati Land Foundation and PHW are partnering to improve Whittier Gardens including the park and traffic patterns. The money for this project has not been included in the city budget so have to “re-ask” for funding support. While there was some discussion as to whether or not this funding request will hamper other requests, the Housing CAT voted to recommend discussion of this issue to the board. This was based largely on the fact that HDAP funding does not require matching city dollars. Stephanie Moes made the motion and Frank Hollister seconded.

**Topic #5:** Cedar Grove

**Summary:**

- 850 Academy will be done within the next two weeks. T.V. show “Desperate Landscapes” is still scheduled for May 2007. PHW will be contacting Steve Chabot for a tour of the house.
- 1132 Seton Ave. construction is well under way.
- Lead work will begin on 1023 Seton within the next two weeks.
- The finishing of projects means that PHW will soon be looking to purchase houses. Matt Strauss is looking closely at 1026 Gilsey and is creating a pro-forma for that property.
- Matt Strauss is meeting with bank representatives to have them offer Price Hill specific loans.
- {Frank Hollister also raised during this discussion the question of cataloguing existing housing programs throughout Price Hill and Cincinnati}

**Topic #6:** Policy Regarding Purchase of Homes with Owners in Foreclosure

**Summary:**

The draft policy drawn up by Legal Aid (Stephanie Moes) was recommended to PHW Executive Director Ken Smith.

**Topic #7:** City Lights

**Summary:** Mary Croft is meeting to look at properties serving as gateways to Price Hill. One is on Elberon/Mt. Hope and the other is on Warsaw/Grand.

The City Lights project seeks to turn the Queens Tower area into a destination with small shops on the first floor and professional offices on the second floor. Also mentioned was the inclusion of the “Moore-Knight House” as a potential “destination” since it is one of only six African-American historical sites in the city.

Minutes submitted  
By  
Steven Schoonover  
Staff Representative  
Price Hill Will