



Weed and Seed AID Team

01/11/10

Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Mayor John Thompson (Wilkinsburg), Gail Mitchell Hall (Site Coordinator-Wilkinsburg Weed and Seed), Winford Craig (Chair of AID Team, Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh), Elaine Burns (PA Weed and Seed Site Liaison), Owen McAfee (Chief-Wilkinsburg Fire Department), Bernadette Turner (Addison Behavioral Care, Inc.), Rev. Richard A. Payne (Wilkinsburg Ministerial Association), Margaret Self, (Self Inc.), Josie Bryant (St. James Outreach), Sgt. Wayne McKenith (Wilkinsburg Police Department), George Spencer (GPA Mad Dads), Marcy Morse (PHDA, Inc.), Greg Whitted (PHDA, Inc.), John Poglinco (U.S. Probation Office) Roger Baker (A.N.D. S.T.E.P.), Detective Mike Adams on behalf of Chief Ophelia Coleman (Wilkinsburg Police Department), Jennifer Matich (Wilkinsburg Community Ministries), Ann Grieder (Wilkinsburg Community Ministries), Kathleen J. Wilson (PA Now), Wilhelmenia Oakley (POWER), LaChele Banks (Hosanna House), Tracey Evans (Borough Council & Rep. Joseph Preston office), The Honorable Joseph Preston (House of Representatives), John Irwin (Wilkinsburg Chamber of Commerce), Trooper Brian Arrington (PA State Police), Melanie Hall (Operations Manager, DPW and Code Enforcement), Kate Grannemann (Weed and Seed Community Ambassador), Randy Castriota (Gym of Future Champs), Larry Chisolm (Gym of Future Champs), Lynn Knezevich (Gwen's Girls), Megan Lape (Mercy Behavioral Health), Lonnie Silver (Gwen's Girls), Lazae LaSpina (WCDC-Design), Holly McIntosh (KEYS Americorps), Jesse Carpenter (KEYS Americorps), Lassie Staub (KEYS Americorps), Ruby Nobles (KEYS Americorps), Kimmy Miller (KEYS Americorps), Laura Meadows (Alpha & Omega Community Gardens)

Call to Order:

Marcy Morse, Vice Chair, called meeting to order at approximately 12:03 p.m. in Room 420 of Hosanna House, Wilkinsburg. Ms. Morse stated meeting is being recorded.

Roll call of voting members was taken by Ms. Mitchell Hall to establish a quorum.

In attendance: Trooper Brian Arrington, Ms. Josie Bryant, Detective Mike Adams on behalf of Chief Ophelia Coleman, Chief Owen McAfee, Minister Linda Law, Rev. Richard Payne, Mr. George Spencer, Mayor John Thompson, Ms. Marcy Morse, Mr. Winford Craig.

Absent: Ms. Barbara Witherspoon and Dr. Marty Seltman

Introduction of all AID Team Members.

AID Team Mission statement read by Ms. Mitchell Hall.

Discussion:

Ms. Morse informs AID Team that Ms. Mitchell Hall needs assistance in the transcribing of meeting minutes because of her heavy schedule. Informed Team that meeting Minutes for October, November 2009 were not complete. There were no Minutes for December 2009 because no meeting was held. Meeting Minutes will be ready for approval at February 2010 meeting.

Brief Summary of Reports made by AID Team Subcommittee Chairs: Copies of written submitted reports by Chairs are available upon request.

- Neighborhood Restoration- Linda Law states that KEYS Americorp will be doing their Annual MLK Service Day in Wilkinsburg on January 18th, 2010.
- Prevention, Intervention and Treatment-Bernadette Turner, shares about the asset mapping group that walked the Wilkinsburg Community and asked others that participated in the walk to share their experiences.
- Law Enforcement and Community Policing-George Spencer, working towards submission of the JABG Grant.

Ms. Morse speaks about lunch donation of \$5.00 for each person in order to support lunch cost in the future. Mayor Thompson comments that lunch has to be pre-paid before meeting and suggest that there could be a change in the meeting time for the AID Team meetings.

Ted Johnson states that current meeting time is very convenient and states that he will sponsor cost for next lunch costs.

Ms. Morse reminds Team that there is a call for Directory forms to be completed by those who have not. This information is for the formation of the Wilkinsburg Weed and Seed Directory.

Sgt. McKenith comments on current crime statistics in the community.

Ms. Morse states that those who wish to participate on the Grant-writing committee should submit one paragraph that describes their personal grant writing experience and submit to Ms. Mitchell Hall by Friday, January 15, 2010.

Ms. Mitchell Hall comments about the experience of completing the JABG grant submitted by the Law Enforcement/Community Policing. She states that the learning experienced was priceless and it was a great opportunity to observe how the committee worked together. She also commended the turn around time for support letters from the School District and other community agencies.

Ms. Burns comments about upcoming grant opportunities that will be coming out in the near future and states that they will be for eligible for only Weed and Seed sites and mostly specific to community policing and law enforcement efforts.

Ms. Evans comments on the opportunity to take advantage of information already available in the WCDC Comprehensive Plan.

Mayor Thompson informed the AID Team that the Tri State has awarded \$1.6 million over the next six years to the WCDC to do the Neighborhood Partnership Program (NPP).

Ms. Burns comments that it is clear that Wilkinsburg is now collaborating and working together.

Mr. Craig comments that it is important that the Grant Review Committee participants have both state and federal grant writing experience.

Reverend Payne comments about the upcoming MLK Community March on January 18th, 2010, starting at 10:00 a.m. at Wilkinsburg Church of the Nazarene located at 300 Peebles Street, marching through Wilkinsburg to St. Mark AME Church, 1409 Montier Street and beginning at 11:00 a.m. there will be a celebration of the life Dr. Martin Luther King. He states that local Ministers from the community will be presenting excerpts from some of the speeches of Dr. King.

Holly McIntosh from KEYS Americorps comments about the KEYS Americorps MLK Day of Service that will be held on January 18th, 2010 and she elaborates on some of the planned projects in the community.

Ms. Morse introduces and comments that Mayor Thompson will be inducted on January 11th into the Wilkinsburg School Hall of Fame.

Mayor Thompson encourages AID Team members to participate and become active on at least one AID Team subcommittee. He reminds the Team that the Comp Plan and the Weed and Seed Revitalization Plan should complement on another to show collaboration efforts. Mayor Thompson also informed the committee that Tri State has awarded \$1.6 million over the next six years to the WCDC to do Neighborhood Partnership Program (NPP).

Ms. Mitchell Hall comments on the plan in the future to work with Council President Eugenia Moore along with Rep. Joe Preston to plan to hold community meetings that will include the school district and government officials. The community meetings will be held in the spring and will focus on community outreach, and other topics pertaining to Wilkinsburg. Volunteers are needed.

Honorable Representative Joe Preston states that Weed & Seed has a sense of direction. Rep. Preston comments that state budget should be finalized with the next three weeks and we will know how much money will be available at that time. He encouraged for-profits and non-profits to work together in order to keep money in the Wilkinsburg community. He challenges the AID Team to think of non-traditional and innovative ideas outside the box. He comments on the diversity of the Wilkinsburg AID Team. Representative Preston pledged his support for Wilkinsburg Weed and Seed as well as that of Senator Ferlo and Congressman Doyle. Rep. Preston states that the AID Team is stronger than we ever and encourages that Team to continue to work together.

Mr. Perrin encourages the AID Team to continue to focus on solutions and comments that people will follow a vision. He comments about the School Board.

Ms. Burns comments that Wilkinsburg Weed and Seed is doing just what Weed & Seed organizations are designed to do; initiating partnerships to restore communities. She commends Wilkinsburg Weed and Seed for its accomplishments thus far.

Ms. Morse informs the AID Team that the next meeting will be held on February 15th, 2010.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Wilkinsburg Weed and Seed Directory
- Update Wilkinsburg Revitalization Plan.


NEW BUSINESS:

- Recruitment of Grant Review Committee members.

Ms. Morse asks if there are any questions and announces next meeting date of February 15, 2010.

Being no further business, a motion was made by Reverend Payne and second by Ms. Morse to adjourn the meeting at approximately 1:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Gail Mitchell Hall, Site Coordinator