



**Weed and Seed AID Team
9/21/09 Meeting
Minutes**

Attendees: Mayor John Thompson (Wilkinsburg), Eugenia Moore (Borough Council President), Marla Marcinko (Borough Manager), Gail Mitchell Hall (Site Coordinator-Wilkinsburg Weed and Seed), Winford Craig (Chair of AID Team, Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh), Owen McAfee (Chief-Wilkinsburg Fire Department), Fran Carter (Addison Behavioral Care, Inc.), Rev. Richard A. Payne (Wilkinsburg Ministerial Association), Elaine Burns (PA Weed and Seed Site Liaison), Josie Bryant (St. James Outreach), Sgt. Wayne McKenith (Wilkinsburg Police Department), Barbara Witherspoon (Grandparents Raising Grandchildren), George and Vanessa Spencer (GPA Mad Dads), Marcy Morse (PHDA, Inc.), Greg Whitted (PHDA, Inc.), Bea Webb (Boys & Girls Club), Roger Baker (A.N.D. S.T.E.P.), Chief Ophelia Coleman (Wilkinsburg Police Department), Jennifer Matich (Wilkinsburg Community Ministries), Al Merritt (GPA Mad Dads & Hosanna House), Sadir Lee (Abraxas), Darla DiGiovanni (Two Steps Forward, Boys Scouts, Gr. Pgh), Tracey Evans (Borough Council & Rep. Joseph Preston office), John Irwin (Wilkinsburg Chamber of Commerce), Skip Bowyer (Block Watch Coordinator, GPA Mad Dads), Trooper Brian Arrington (PA State Police), Stephanie Simmons (Sierra Club, Allegheny Group), Kenneth Vaughan (Pgh Job Corps), Rich Williams (Pgh Job Corps), Dennis Candy (Community Partners Inst.), Carol Foster Allen (Northwood Realty), Otis Story, Sr. (West Penn Allegheny Health Systems), Melanie Hall (Operations Manager, DPW and Code Enforcement), Dr. Marty Seltman (Metro Family Practice), Vanessa McCarthy Johnson (Borough Council, Wilkinsburg HOOPS, WPSD), Harold Young (Jazz Workshop, Inc.), Anthony Jackson, (Neighborhood Youth Outreach Program), Laura Meadows (Alpha & Omega Community Gardens), Debra Luster (Alpha & Omega Community Gardens), Harold L. Blye (Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation)

Call to Order:

Winford Craig, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at approximately 12:07 p.m. in Room 420 of Hosanna House, Wilkinsburg.

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

In attendance: Trooper Brian Arrington, Ms. Josie Bryant, Chief Ophelia Coleman, Chief Owen McAfee, Rev. Richard Payne, Mr. George Spencer, Mayor John Thompson, Ms. Marcy Morse, Mr. Winford Craig, and Ms. Barbara Witherspoon.

Absent: Ms. Linda Law

Introductions were made of all AID Team Members.

Discussion:

Marla Marcinko, Wilkinsburg Borough Manager discussed issue of distribution of \$3,000 to a Blight Elimination/Art Project and logic behind decision. Ms. Marcinko commented that budget decisions regarding particular line items had to be made due to time restraints.

Mr. Baker commented on the return of \$30,000 in blight elimination funding that was returned to PCCD.

Ms. Marcinko commented that the monies were returned again due to time restraints and upon an in-direct perceived conflict of interest by the Wilkinsburg Borough Solicitor.

Mayor Thompson suggests that if there are no more concerns that the AID Team move forward.

Mr. Craig suggests that a separate meeting or another alternative could be put in place to address any further questions regarding the return of \$30,000 Weed and Seed Blight Elimination funds.

Ms. Bryant commented on the seriousness of re-distribution of funding without being brought to the AID Team table before those types of decisions are made.

Mr. Craig reassures AID Team that transparency is policy moving forward in the current fiscal year.

Ms. Marcinko stated that improvements will be made to the review and approval process for projects and/or programs moving forward funded by the Weed and Seed Initiative.

Mr. Al Merritt Co-Chair of Neighborhood Restoration subcommittee provided the AID Team with a report of current and future activities of the Neighborhood Restoration subcommittee. The meeting was held on September 14th, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. at the Hosanna House, Room 420. Next meeting is scheduled to be held on October 12th, 2009 same location.

Ms. Barbara Witherspoon, Co-Chair of Prevention/Intervention and Treatment subcommittee provided the AID Team with a report of current and future activities of the PIT subcommittee. The meeting was held on September 14th, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. at the Addison Behavioral Care, Inc. 905 West Street, Wilkinsburg. Next meeting is scheduled to be held on October 19th, 2009 at the Family Support Center located in the Hosanna House, 2nd floor, Wilkinsburg at 10:00 a.m.

George Spencer, Chair of Community Policing, stated that Law Enforcement and Community Policing subcommittees will be meeting together because of current overlap. Mr. Spencer provided the AID Team with a report of current and future activities of the Law Enforcement and Community Policing subcommittee. The meeting was held on September 21st, 2009 at the Hosanna House, room 420 at 10:30 a.m. Next meeting is scheduled to be held on October 19th, 2009, Hosanna House, room 420, Wilkinsburg at 10:30 a.m. *directly before regular full body AID Team meeting.*

****Please note that a standardized reporting system is being formulated for the AID Team subcommittees, and subcommittee reports will be made part of all future AID Team Minutes.***

Mr. George Spencer made motion that Meeting Minutes dated 8/17/09 be approved and seconded by Dr. Marty Seltman. Meeting Minutes were approved by AID Team voting members.

Brief comments were made by new participants of AID Team regarding services provided by their perspective organizations. Comments were made by: Ms. Sadir Lee (Abraxas), Mr. Rich Williams and Ken Vaughan (Job Corps), Ms. Darla DiGiovanni (Two Steps Forward-Boys Scouts of Gr. Pgh), and Mr. Otis Story (West Penn Allegheny Health Systems).

Ms. Elaine Burns, PA State Liaison stated that she is always astounded by the diversity of the newly restructured Wilkinsburg AID Team. She stated that last year was difficult for the Wilkinsburg Weed and Seed Initiative and encourages the AID Team to move forward. She also commented that she too is unaware of the status regarding the State Budget. She commented that a scheduled mandatory training for all Weed and Seed site coordinators and their police liaisons will be held in the near future.

Ms. Mitchell distributes funding announcement information to AID Team members for their review and information.

Motion was made by Reverend Payne and seconded by Mayor Thompson to extend AID Team meeting time from 1 hour to 1 ½ hours and approved by AID Team voting members.

Up-Coming Activities:

Ms. Elaine Burns will present Weed and Seed 101 in November 2009. Date will be announced.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Wilkinsburg Weed and Seed Directory

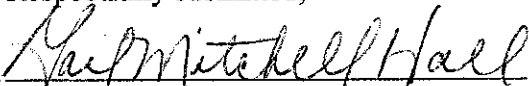
NEW BUSINESS:

- Suggested plan to update Wilkinsburg Revitalization Plan.
- Recruitment of Grant Review Committee members.

Mr. Craig asks if there were any questions and announces next meeting date of October 19th, 2009 at the Hosanna House, room 420 at 12:00 noon.

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