



PEOPLE TASK FORCE MEETING SUMMARY
SUMMARY FOR MEETING #2 – THURSDAY, MAY 9, 2024 – 5:30PM-7:00PM
HIGH SCHOOL IN THE COMMUNITY – 175 WATER STREET, NEW HAVEN, CT

MEETING PURPOSE

To clarify the People Task Force’s role in the Choice Neighborhood Initiative (CNI) planning process, complete a SWOT analysis of the PEOPLE needs in the Union Square area, outline the next steps in the process, and review planning handbook and baseline housing data.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

Shared understanding of task force’s role in the CNI planning process and initial discussion of goals for the people component of the Transformation Plan. A comprehensive SWOT analysis of the PEOPLE needs in the Union Square area, identifying strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Amos Smith, Alecia Spencer, Linda Cross, Jeffrey Walker, Alberta Golden, Shirley Give, Keisha Redd-Hannans, Andy Orefice, Santiago Perez-Gomez, Doris Doward, John Pupello, Alder Carmen Rodriguez, Josh Golden

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Tomi Veale, John Noonan, Jeff Pyltak, Dale Holder, Emily Byrne, Henry Fernandez, Laura Woodie, Kyle Ballou, Alice Forrester, Bill Villano, Kymbel Branch, LaToya Mills, Steven Marans, Maritza Bond, Bill Villano, Alice Forrester, Henry Fernandez, Margaret LaFever

OTHERS PRESENT

Amelia Rodriguez, Jimmy Miller

-PRESENTATION MATERIALS ARE ATTACHED TO THIS DOCUMENT-

1. Welcome

Ms. Vincent, Program Manager, welcomed attendees and led introductions. Ms. Vincent introduced the People Task Force Co-Leads, Tomi Veale and Amos Smith, and provided an update on the planning process to date. She turned the meeting over to Jimmy Miller to lead the breakout session activities.

2. Project Updates

Ms. Vincent and Mr. Miller provided an update on the planning efforts thus far. In the Housing and Neighborhood Task Forces meeting on March 20, 2024, we reviewed the housing plan components and incorporated previous planning efforts into our current discussions. At the Resident Advisory Committee meeting on March 27, 2024, we discussed the Resident Survey and residents voted on their top priorities for Early Action Activities. On March 28, 2024, the Yale School of Management presented the Resident Assessment survey at the Steering Committee Meeting and obtained advice from the



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committee, and we discussed the protocols for completing the Neighborhood Assessment. During the Early Action Committee Meeting on April 4, 2024, participants reviewed the basic demographics of Robert T. Wolfe residents and delved into their needs, barriers, strengths, and interests, focusing on employment, income, health, adult education, and continual learning. At the Resident Advisory Committee meeting on May 1, 2024, we discussed critical repairs and capital improvements for Robert T. Wolfe, informing residents that the survey would begin in June 2024. In the Early Action Committee Meeting on May 2, 2024, Glendower and Censere Consulting used the Early Action Idea Form to stimulate discussion, aiming to identify and prioritize EAA, with participants shown examples from other Choice Neighborhoods, and the next meeting will focus on further refining these priorities.

3. Breakout Groups: SWOT ANALYSIS

Mr. Miller provided a comprehensive overview of the purpose and significance of the SWOT analysis. He explained that the SWOT analysis aims to identify and assess the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats related to the PEOPLE needs in the Union Square area. This analysis will help to inform and guide the planning process by highlighting key areas of focus, potential challenges, and opportunities for improvement. It serves as a critical tool in understanding the current situation and developing strategic plans to address the needs of the community effectively.

Participants divided into 4-5 groups to complete SWOT analysis charts. Each group focused on the PEOPLE needs in the Union Square area and reported key findings on the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats.

STRENGTHS (INTERNAL)	WEAKNESSES (INTERNAL)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Parks to gather* ● Library ● Proximity to hospitals/clinics* ● Access to highway ● Local businesses ● Community centers for youth & seniors ● Diversity/culture/arts ● Schools ● Green space ● Public Transportation* ● Neighborhoodlike ● Police Department ● Train station ● Access to Downtown* ● Restaurants* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Lack of Lighting ● Lack of Security/safety* ● Community not working together ● Walkability ● Information centers ● Signage! Way-finding in Union Square/Hill ● Greenspace for physical activity/open space to sit ● Adult education relocating ● Schools/physical improvement ● School academic improvement ● Lack of access to fresh and inexpensive foods



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OPPORTUNITIES (EXTERNAL)	THREATS (EXTERNAL)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lighting • Security/safety • Addressing homelessness • Services in Union Station • Recreational spaces for youth and elderly; indoor and outdoor* • Community Garden • Development of children & adult education: -children programs, - computer literacy, -GED, -Continuing Education, -financial literacy • Financial literacy & opportunities • Workforce training • Jobs & job creation • Walk-in clinic • Update public spaces • After school programs • More funding • Supermarket w/ fresh foods: -price rite, Aldi • Building sense of community and friendliness • Senior center/community center* • Elderly services • School/ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gentrification: -kicked out or eased out where will we live?* • Increasing/high rent* • Drugs • Relocation of police department • Decrease in utilization services • Increase traffic • Affordable daycare • Affordable housing • Lack of community social service funding • Speeding vehicles that cause harm to residents • Lack of resources for early education • Lack of Care4Kids • Lack of qualified teachers • Adult education for English learners (ESL) • Cost of healthcare • First time homebuyers funding and education • More funding for sidewalks to accommodate walking • sidewalks • Ensure that property managers do their job and manage the property: -fix door, - fix elevator, - fix intercom, -fix stairs, -fix sidewalks, -fix leaks, -fix roof

*= items that were identified more than once

4. Planning Handbook

Ms. Vincent explained that we are just about finalizing our planning handbook and will have copies ready to distribute at the Hill Neighborhood Festival and upcoming Task Force meetings. The handbook is designed to walk CNI participants through the steps of the planning process of transforming an existing community into a neighborhood where people choose to live. The task force members were asked to review and become familiar with the information and bring it to future meetings for reference.

5. Questions

There were no questions.



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6. Next Meeting

The next meeting date and time will be June 13th at 5:30pm.