Eau Claire City-County
Health Department

720 Second Ave, Eau Claire, WI 54703
www.echealthdepartment.org
P: 715-839-4718
F: 715-839-1674

HIA Neighborhood Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
L.E. Phillips Memorial Library, *Eau Claire Room*
Monday, May 2nd, 2016   6:00-7:30pm

Present: Audrey Boerner, Barb Powers, Barbara Gosch, Cheryl Brandt, Christa Cupp, Cortney Draxler, Cory Streeter, Ezra Zeitler, Grant Dvorak, Joshua Clements, Mark Mernitz, Nick Zupan, Pat Perkins, Phil Johnson, Todd Johnson

1. **Welcome & Introductions**
   a. Introductions of HIA project team and committee members present were made around the room.

2. **Advisory Committee Goals**
   a. Audrey shared the Advisory Committee Collaboration Agreement with the group. This handout details the background and goals for the HIA, expectations of advisory committee members, and the process for making decisions within advisory committee meetings.

3. **HIA Scoping Refresher & Scoping Data Review**
   a. Audrey briefly presented to the group a refresher of the HIA process, purpose of the scoping step, and scoping data. This data included feedback from residents and business owners near the Cannery regarding the topics that they indicated would be important for the HIA to focus on.

4. **Discussion: Using Data to Drive HIA Scope**
   a. Audrey shared with the group a handout containing scoping topics developed at the February training. Topics were organized into three levels: individual, society, and built environment. Nick broke the group up into four small groups to discuss specific discussion questions relating to the Cannery/HIA. After 15 minutes of discussion, Nick brought the small groups back together for discussion of answers and report-outs from each group. After each group shared answers, the group voted on the top focus areas. Each committee member had three votes for each of their top 3 areas.

      Discussion questions/answers:

1) Which of the topics are most serious? (topics that are most problematic, have most severe effects on people)
   a) Jobs workforce development
   b) Having jobs located in the neighborhood area

    i) Housing
        (1) The proportion of those who rent vs/ own in the neighborhood/Cannery area
        (2) Access to quality and affordable housing (with concern that 30% is the maximum amount of income that should be spent on housing)
        (3) Poor conditions of some housing in the area (noted especially Kwik Trip on Bellinger St.)

2) Saftey/Crime
    a) High number of school children in the area (many have to wait for bus)
    b) High amount of busy traffic near the school (many children are in close proximity to this traffic)
    c) One group mentioned perception vs. reality – "How do you understand the neighborhood if you don't live there?"
    d) Concerns were expressed about residents safely being able to cross street to Phoenix Park, Kwik trip, and Family Video.
    e) One group linked safety/crime to homelessness, mental health, substance abuse, and income inequality. (There was concern mentioned about the Oxford Avenue apartment residents- there was concern that any change in the area will displace these residents).

3) Social Cohesion and Relationship with Community
    a) One group mentioned the Cannery development should include a blended area of different housing types. The group also noted that blending housing stock could help make social cohesion more likely.
    b) There group noted there could be an opportunity to address other underlying issues affecting the community through social cohesion and relationship with community.
    c) The Biscuit lofts were mentioned as a local model of mixed income housing to take into consideration.
    d) The group also discussed issues people face when displaced from a familiar area: needing to find new access to food, healthcare, and stress as a result of being displaced into an area residents may be less familiar with.
    e) Gentrification
        i) Will price of new developments displace people out of neighborhood? One person noted displacement is not the same as gentrification, the latter which implies *priced* out of an area.
    f) Public Space
        i) How an area is designed can impact the use/development it receives in the future. (Group noted Phoenix Park as an example: RCU development spurred this transformation). The group questioned what type of development could be similar to this in the Cannery District.

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4) In which of the topic areas can the redevelopment have the greatest impact on the West Riverside community (think about which topics affect the most people, or have direct, immediate impacts on the residents)?
   a) Workforce Development
      i) Would the development [of the Cannery District] attract something like JAMF?
         (1) Is it a possibility to attract employers to the neighborhood?
   b) Safety
      i) Road safety, street lighting, and transportation (bike and pedestrians)

5) In which topic areas is the community most ready for change (if we started working today, where could we see the most change in 1, 5, or 20 years)?
   a) Jobs/Businesses
   b) The group also commented that it's hard to know and answer "what is the community most ready for?" and that it was a tough question to answer on the behalf of the community. They posed the following question in response:
      i) "What do neighborhood residents identify they need the most?"

5. **Dotmocracy: Vote on Top 3 Scoping Topics**
   a. Nick moved the group from report out to dotmocracy voting with sticky notes. Each member received three sticky notes to vote for three issues they felt should be considered in scoping. (Members were allowed one sticky note per topic).

Results:

- Safety/Crime – 8 votes
- Relationship with Community/Social Cohesion – 6 votes
- Trails & Parks/Transportation (see below)

Tied for 3rd place were the following topics. The group came to a consensus for combining topics for 3rd place, based on their commonalities:
- 3-way tie
   o Trails/parks
   o Social cohesion
   o Transportation

6. **Final Discussion & Wrap-Up**

7. **Adjourn**
   a. Meeting adjourned at 7:30pm

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Next meeting: Thursday, June 16th, 4 – 6pm

Location: L.E. Phillips Memorial Library, *Eau Claire Room*