**SEAL_color4inchAction Minutes**

## ***Central West Focus Area: Steering Committee Meeting***

**Meeting Date/Time:** March 1, 2013, 2:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. (Walking Tour from 2:30-3:30pm; Steering Committee meeting from 4:00-6:00pm)

**Members Present:** Mia Burroughs, Anthony Carey, Lucy Carol Davis, Eric Hyman, Julie McClintock, Sarah McIntee, Firoz Mistry, Bruce Murray, Abby Parcell, Michael Parker, Whit Rummel, Amy Ryan, Mickey Jo Sorrell, and Buffie Webber

**Members Absent:** Keith Billy, Jeff Kidd, and David Tuttle

**Staff Present:** Mary Jane Nirdlinger and Megan Wooley

**Consultants Present:** Deana Rhodeside and Meredith Judy, Rhodeside & Harwell

| **Agenda Item** | **Discussion Points** | **Motions/Votes** | **Action** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1. **CWFA Walking Tour** | 2:20 – 3:30pm - Steering Committee members participated in a site walk throughout the CWFA. |  |  |
| 1. **Introductions and Opening Remarks (4:00)** | Megan Wooley, Chapel Hill Planning Department, opened the meeting and welcomed attendees. |  |  |
| 1. **Public Participation/ Comments** | Public participants commented that walking the study area was very informative, particularly in regard to understanding pedestrian concerns and needs. |  |  |
| 1. **Discuss Lessons Learned from the Walking Tour** | Deana Rhodeside led a discussion with SC members to shared reactions and thoughts from the walking tour. The discussion covered topics such as the physical elements that best characterize the CWFA for residents and others, what aspects of the area might be made better over time, where there are opportunities for change, and where may change be difficult. Specific discussion comments are described in the attached notes. | There were no motions or votes. |  |
| 1. **Preview the Existing Conditions Presentation** | Meredith Judy presented the existing conditions PowerPoint that will be used at the March 2 Community Workshop. SC members provided feedback that would add clarity to the presentation. Other comments noted improvements to the data maps that can be made for future use. In particular, the SC noted concerns with some of the facts from the economic studies. | There were no motions or votes. | * The consultants made revisions to the existing conditions PowerPoint prior to the March 2 workshop. |
| 1. **Steering Committee Roles for the Community Workshop** | Deana Rhodeside described the roles for the SC members during the March 2 Community Workshop. They included note takers and discussion recorders and responses to questions where appropriate. The SC members will also be introduced at the beginning of the workshop. | There were no motions or votes. |  |
| 1. **Next Steps** | The next Steering Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 12 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the Tuscany Room of the Siena Hotel.  During this meeting the Committee will review the findings from the Saturday, March 2 Community Workshop. |  |  |
| 1. **Public Participation/ Comments** | There were no additional comments from the public. |  |  |
| 1. **Closing** |  |  | The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m. |

**CENTRAL WEST FOCUS AREA: STEERING COMMITTEE TOUR**

**March 1, 2013**

***General Area Comments:***

* The Town can’t wait for Carolina North to come in to fix the traffic problems – involve property owners now in making improvements; don’t wait for UNC development to happen here
* Look for partnerships for early implementation actions
* Speeding traffic on MLK and Estes is caused by a lack of interest/destinations along these corridors:
  + A planted median would “do wonders” for slowing traffic speed, as would destinations along the street

***Points noted on the tour:***

* YMCA egress is dangerous
* Somerset could be a full intersection
* There were no other pedestrians observed during the walk
* Lots of trash – especially on MLK south of Estes
* There are no connections for pedestrians from Estes Hills to the library or the Y
* “Doesn’t feel like an urban environment”
* There is periodic flooding along Estes Drive
* What are the potentials for:
  + The Duke Power/UNC easement
  + The vacant/abandoned property on Estes Drive
* There is a general lack of connectivity in the area:
  + Is there off-road bike connection potential?
  + Sidewalks: too narrow, poorly lit, rutted and poorly maintained
* There is an underinvestment in infrastructure
* Poor intersections: clogged, need to be widened, crossing lights for pedestrians are too short
  + Intersections near the school are confusing, poorly marked; give off “mixed signals”
  + At night, it is very difficult to see pedestrians crossing at the intersection of MLK and Estes
* Much of the study area is a “blank slate”
* Area is hilly with a lot of rock outcroppings