

DRAKE NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING MEETING
HOUSING SUB-COMMITTEE
Thursday June 11, 2009 at 6:30pm
Holiday Inn Express, 1140 24th Street

I. Foreclosures and the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP)—30-45 mins.

David Dunn, City Planner

- a) Overview of the foreclosure process and the NSP
- b) Impact on the Drake Neighborhood
- c) Ways to deal with a vacant, foreclosed home

II. Historic Preservation in the Drake Neighborhood—30-45 mins.

Mary Neiderbach, Senior City Planner

- a) National vs. Local Historic Designation
- b) Listed historic districts and properties in the Drake Neighborhood
- c) Potential for additional historic districts and/or properties in the Drake Neighborhood

III. Open Discussion – questions, comments, and plan goals

IV. Review of Upcoming Topics

July 2nd—*Should we change the date due to the July 4th Holiday?*

Rental: Examples of Strategies: Iowa City; Crime Free Housing Program; Others?

August 6th :

Rental: Strategies for Drake Neighborhood: NCS Tools, NBSD; How to Ensure Accountability; HOME, Inc; Good Neighbor Policy

Suggested Additional Meeting:

September 3rd: Goal and strategy review and wrap up.

Notes

Foreclosures and the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP)

Dave Dunn, City Planner discussed the foreclosure process, strategies for the neighborhood to prevent foreclosures, and details of the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP). The group had several questions about the foreclosure process and NSP. One of the group members inquired about how to go about the neighborhood association maintaining foreclosed properties (putting up signs in yard). The group was also interested in putting together a foreclosure awareness/education meeting for the neighborhood.

Further clarification on the NSP process was given, such as how to ensure that a rehabbed property was not converted into a rental property (10 year restrictive covenant and property lien) and how to handle properties that are beyond rehab (NSP also covers demolition). Some concerns were raised about the demolition process and how properties are classified for demo. The group pointed out that vacant lots

and inappropriate infill can bring down property values as well. The neighborhood association should be concerned with keeping the integrity of properties and the neighborhood overall. Dave explained that before a property is slated for demolition it must undergo an environmental review and that the neighborhood association would be kept updated about potential demolitions in their area. Dave also stressed that if neighborhood residents know of properties of concern, they should contact the City.

Historic Preservation in the Drake Neighborhood

Mary Neiderbach, Senior City Planner discussed some of the existing historic districts and properties in the Drake neighborhood including the Drake Campus District, Forestdale, Bungalow/Four Square District, and University Place. Mary also went over several historic preservation studies that have been published about the areas within the Drake neighborhood as well as the differences between local and national designation. Mary stressed that the DNA should focus on developing goals for historic preservation (i.e. what does the neighborhood want to accomplish by designating certain districts).

The group had some discussion on what separates a “neat” house from a historic property and what would constitute as a historic district. One of the main ideas to come out of the discussion was the proposal to develop a master plan of potential historic districts located within the neighborhood. Another key idea was the creation of a searchable database, where people can go to look up and submit information about their property or a specific district. The group inquired about the timeline for the preservation plan and the deadline to submit a proposal for CDBG funding from the NRB.

Open Discussion

The group had a discussion about the DNA boundaries as well as issues with NFC boundaries in the area. Sadie Hildebrand, City Planner will investigate the boundary issues and report back to the committee.

The group expressed interest in getting a Preservation Plan Group chartered by the DNA.

Review of Upcoming Topics

The group decided to move the July 2 meeting date to July 9 to accommodate for holiday travel. The group also agreed to an additional meeting in September and possibly additional meeting dates after.