

MEETING SUMMARY

Hunters View Community Partners and Hunters View Tenants Association
Meeting with Hunters View Residents
July 15, 2010 - 5:30pm-7:00pm
Hunters View Community Center
125 West Point Road, San Francisco, CA

Tessie started the meeting at 5:40 p.m. with 6 residents present. Tessie introduced herself and identified the staff and partners from the San Francisco Housing Authority, City, Urban Strategies, and the development team in attendance. She introduced Christina Mun of John Stewart Company, who gave a brief project update. Christina stated that the Disposition and Development Agreement had been approved by the SF Housing Authority, which will lay out the guidelines for how Phase I will be developed. In addition, the development team is preparing the applications for bond financing and tax credits for Phase IA. On site, preliminary backtie utility work will begin in August. Grading and infrastructure is scheduled to begin in October, depending on the ability to access the state infrastructure funds that have been committed.

Question: Can you put up pictures and other documents for residents to see how the new Hunters View will look?

Response: Christina agreed that visuals would be important to include in the community center, and stated that these would be supplied for residents to see. She noted that there had been a meeting a few months earlier with the architects to present the building and unit layouts. September Jarrett of the Mayor's Office informed residents that items for the community center would be discussed more in depth later in the meeting.

Question: What part of the building design can we still give input on?

Response: Dan Levine of JSCo. responded that there would be limited opportunities for input on building design, because it would require plans to be re-submitted for review. However, some decisions like colors will be brought back for resident input, as well as plans for future phases.

Comment: Residents should be united together. If the HVTA Board is not getting along, then people don't have a voice; the HVTA needs to become a whole board in order to help the community.

Kelly Dearman of Urban Strategies introduced herself and briefly described Urban Strategies' role as the new service connector that would be present on-site. She noted that the originally scheduled July 5 opening of the Urban Strategies office in the new community center was delayed in order to make sure that the staff and office were prepared; the office will open in the next few weeks. She reported that Urban Strategies has hired one service connector who will work on job readiness and job placement, as well as one service connector who will work on children and family issues.

Kelly encouraged residents to attend all the meetings, noting that better attendance would help reduce chances of miscommunication. Her priority is to help residents move forward by improving communication and information sharing; once the office is open, residents are encouraged to drop in during the day with any questions. Amy Tharpe of the Mayor's Office added that the intention of creating the new center was to meet the service needs of residents, HVTA, and the rest of the community.

Question: Will you lock some doors, or will everyone have access to the community center?
Response: September responded that this very good question would be added to the list of discussion items about the community center.

Question: Mice have come in after the buildings were demolished. Will JSCo. send pest control to exterminate inside our units?

Response: Dominica Henderson of the SF Housing Authority responded that this is a question for the Housing Authority. She told residents to inform the Housing Authority of these issues.

Question: What happened to the information we filled out with Parent University? Are they still involved?

Response: September responded that for Parent University to share that information with Urban Strategies, residents will need to fill out a consent form giving permission.

Kelly promised that Urban Strategies will have a relationship with each and every family whether Urban receives the information from Parent University or not. Currently the paperwork is locked and protected in an office, but all residents have the right to see any piece of paperwork prepared about them.

September added that Urban Strategies is now taking over the case management from Parent University. However, Parent University will continue parent-child work with Hunters View families, and might possibly provide some programs in the community center if doing so meets resident needs.

September took down several lists of discussion points and ideas about what programs and services residents wanted in the Community Center, Questions/Issues residents would like clarified, Back to School and Topic Ideas for the next meeting. The ideas of residents are listed below:

Community Center Program Ideas

- Agreements about shared use between Urban Strategies and HVTA
- Drug program with one to two sessions every week
- Expansion of the HOPE SF Youth Leadership Academy
 - o September informed the group that there are five part-time jobs for youth in each of the HOPE SF sites. In fall when school starts, the program will be one session per week after school, and one Saturday per month. This is a leadership program in which the youth receive a monthly stipend.
 - o A resident noted that the youth involved in HOPE SF YLA are doing good work. A resident likes that the youth have input on the park and can work in their own community.
 - o Other youth should be able to attend these sessions to watch and learn, even if additional youth aren't paid. September will look into the potential of the program to expand.
 - o Amy added that perhaps these youth leaders could present at the next meeting to show their work to the other residents and youth.
- HOPE SF Adult Academy: Dominica stated that the HOPE SF Adult Academy will be recruiting in a couple months, pointing out that two recent graduates and one participant were present. Dominica informed residents that they hoped the program could expand participation from Hunters View.
- Resources and activities for youth

- Education programs like Neighborhood House in Potrero Hill that offers scholarships for college
- Engage the youth to ask what they want to see in the community center.
- Create an “Each one teach one” model where youth teach each other
- Physical and emotional therapy
 - Especially for parents who have lost children
 - To help with transition into new development
- Activities for mothers/fathers/caregivers and their babies
 - Parent child groups
 - Should be overseen by a community member/resident employee that is experienced with children
- HVTA office space
 - Dominica guaranteed that HVTA office will be furnished by next Friday
 - SFHA will move furniture from old space to new space
- Employment
 - Provide a binder with job openings, or provide services to bridge gaps in employment
 - Amy noted that an Urban Strategies person will focus on assisting residents find employment
- Entertainment:
 - Positive activities once a month for all ages, e.g. Karaoke or a block party or other musical activities
 - Similar to how senior citizens currently have bingo events, etc.

More information requested:

- Better communication about transitioning into the new center: new wall, offices, lack of resident input
- Improve board strength; lead by example and truth

August 16: Back to School

- Money for back to school shopping (supplies, uniforms, backpacks)
 - Every year all youth receive backpacks full of supplies. September will check on the age limit for this program.
- After school programs – tutoring
 - Want after school administrators with real experience
 - Want youth to teach each other
 - Cool class?
- Haircuts
- Medical – make sure residents are connected to clinics
- Breakfast at Community Center co-hosted by HVTA and Urban Strategies
- Scholarships

Next Meeting Ideas

- Youth presentation HOPE SF
- Youth focus group of what they want in the community center
- Possible funding opportunities in next 6 months
- Getting young men into unions

What worked tonight

- Everyone was listening to each other, no interfering with each others' ideas; respect
- Productive
- New leader Leotis
- Board worked together well today

Improvements for next month

- More residents in attendance
- Minutes
- Updates of what's occurred since last meeting
- Binder to keep documents, especially minutes
- Idea paper to leave on the wall for residents to add ideas

Tessie thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting. Dinner was available throughout the meeting.