



Friends of 40th Street

5 December 2008

Friends of 40th Street
Meeting Memo No. 40

Date/Place/Time: 5 December 2008/ Community Room – 3901 Market Street /8:00 a.m.

Attendance:	Jessi Averill	The Partnership CDC (TPCDC)
	Randy Belin	LISC
	Ethel Briscoe	3901 Market Street
	Shirley Carter	3901 Market Street
	Joyce Caulley	3901 Market Street
	Will Dean	
	Marc Desir	3901 Market Street
	David Dlugosz	City of Philadelphia Streets Department
	Lee V. Goode	3901 Market Street
	Andrew Goodman	PennPraxis
	Iola Harper	SCI-West
	Winnie Harris	UC Green
	Dana Henry	Grid Magazine
	Jennifer Jones	Portfolio Associates
	Stafford Knuckle	3901 Market Street
	Kathryn Laws	3901 Market Street
	Scott Maits	CEC

William McCollum	3901 Market Street
Anne Mitchell	UPenn Nursing
Ann Mintz	University City District (UCD)
Ida Morris	3901 Market Street
Nancy Mosley	3901 Market Street
Pat Nowak	3901 Market Street
Megan Powers	The Metropolis Group
Arjuna Raja	
Richard E. Rogers	3901 Market Street
Laura Sagues	
Horace Smith	4008 Ludlow
Francis Talley	3901 Market Street
Geraldine Williams	3901 Market Street
Alice Wright	United Block Captains Association

Items Discussed:

1. Andrew Goodman (AG) welcomed everyone. Everyone went around and introduced themselves.
2. Iola Harper (IH) from Sustainable Communities Initiatives West (SCI-West) was the first to present. She began by explaining that SCI-West is collaboration between the People's Emergency Center CDC, University City District, The Partnership CDC, and the Enterprise Center CDC. The collaboration is not exclusive to these Community Development Corporations (CDCs). However, they are the area's CDCs that SCI-West comprises. IH went on to discuss the small communities grant opportunity, essentially the first program to be offered through SCI-West. This grant is offered to community groups who are interested to use \$3,000 towards a project within the SCI-West target area. Handouts were distributed with more information about the grant process as well as the target area boundaries. The application deadline was December 22, 2008.

Someone asked about housing and what it includes within this initiative. IH answered that this initiative works with two CDCs which have neighborhood plans that include

housing initiatives. These plans will be taken into consideration as part of SCI-West's initiatives.

Another person asked about whether a group applying for the grant must have a 501(c)(3) status for non-profits designated by the IRS. IH replied that in order to apply, the applicant either must have this status or partner with another organization with this status.

Someone asked why only part of Lancaster Avenue is included in the SCI-West target area. IH commented that this relates to the partnering CDCs' service areas.

IH went on to say that SCI-West's services are the services already provided by its partnering CDCs. SCI-West is the facilitator in this partnership and hopes to connect these services more throughout the SCI-West service area. SCI-West is also willing and starting to make collaborations with organizations/groups outside of target area.

It was asked who the funder for this initiative is. IH answered that the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) funds it. IH continued by giving some of the history of SCI-West. About a year and a half ago LISC selected four CDCs already investing in the West Philadelphia community in order to build a larger initiative. LISC met with CDC directors to start the strategic planning in order to develop this partnership. Recently, LISC designated Philadelphia as an emerging sustainable community.

An example of the type of programming the initiative will include is workforce development. This program will be getting institutions and businesses to start using services and hire employees more from West Philadelphia; "Buy West, Hire West." Another example would be to continue building more around healthy home awareness and available resources. IH went on to say that this type of initiative in the city is right now only in West Philadelphia.

Randy Belin (RB) from LISC was then introduced. He provided an overview of LISC. It is a national organization established 30 years ago (Philadelphia's office was established 27 years ago.) It is funded by larger corporations, banks, insurance companies, foundations, etc. LISC allocates funding through local offices (like in Philadelphia) which in turn funds groups like Community Development Corporations (CDCs).

Someone asked if LISC provides the guidelines for its work. RB stated that LISC does include guidelines specific to its funding.

It was then asked how many times an LISC-funded organization reports on its funding use. RB stated that it varies because it depends on whether the funding is a grant or loan. For example, the small communities grant opportunity will be a one report form of grant. Perhaps money relating to corridor revitalization will need reports every three months.

LISC Philadelphia has managed about \$250 million into the city and leveraged about \$600 million. There are seven staff members in Philadelphia's office.

3. Next, Captain Fischer (CF) presented. CF shared good news that by the end of November the crime rate had decreased by 9%. CF commented that it is now a matter of maintaining these positive rates. Penn Police has been recognized by Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (DOT) for its good enforcement of driving safety. Penn DOT will hold an

upcoming press conference regarding “Operation Holiday Safety.” Penn Police is looked to as a partner in this initiative as it is aggressive in its driving safety enforcement.

CF went on to mention about the South Street Bridge closure and its challenges. It is a challenge because of having to detour motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians from bridge route. Penn Police have to make sure that all know how to share the roads while detoured, particularly motorists and bicyclists. The Division of Public Safety has a brochure available with information for both motorists and bicyclists.

CF next introduced David Dlugosz (DD) from the Traffic Engineering Division with the city to speak about the South Street Bridge demolition. DD explained that once the bridge is closed there will probably be a couple of weeks of organized chaos due to the change in driving and riding patterns. Penn Police will be designated to twelve different intersections near the bridge location. Between 6:30am until 10:30am police will be out directing traffic. One intersection to help redirect traffic will be at 38th Street and Baltimore Avenue near the hospital. There will be some evening monitoring of intersections as well. The city will be monitoring intersections as well like the one at 34th Street and Grays Ferry Avenue.

A question was asked about what SEPTA is planning during all of this. DD said that SEPTA will probably be increasing services a bit. However, SEPTA will mostly wait to see what service demand is before offering it and/or making route adjustments.

Driscoll is the main contractor for both the demolition and construction of the bridge. Driscoll is the same company involved in the work on the JFK Bridge by 30th Street Station. A pedestrian bridge will be complete by December 14, 2008 to make easier to cross the Schuylkill River. This will help make the athletic fields at UPenn more accessible. The bridge will remain open after new bridge is completed. Once demolition is complete, construction will begin. If anyone has a complaint and/or comment regarding the bridge work, they can contact the city’s Street Department at (215) 686-5560. Also, information can be found at the Division of Public Safety’s website <http://www.publicsafety.upenn.edu/ssbridge/default.asp>.

It was requested by some at the meeting for DD and others at the city to take a look at the 40th and Market Street intersection. DD asked that a letter be mailed to him at his office in order to start this process.

CF ended his presentation by announcing that evictions for three property owners at the University City Townhouses have started. The broken cameras on the Townhouses property have been replaced with new cameras as well as cased in bulletproof glass and more aggressive monitoring is being taken.

Submitted by:

Jessi Averill
The Partnership CDC

Cc: Those in Attendance
Friends of 40th Street