

**UNWA Town Hall Meeting
Employment, Education, and Jobs Committee Discussion
October 28, 2004**

Facilitator: John R. Hall

Discussion:

The title of commercial node study along MLK, Jr. Street is Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Street Corridor Enhancement Work Program. A question raised at the beginning of today's discussion concerned the need for a dollar merchandise store that the Work Program found. The answer was that the need for this type of store arises from the income levels of the neighborhood. Many people in the neighborhood go to Lafayette Square area to that dollar merchandise store. This type of store meets the needs of many people in the neighborhood.

Indiana Business College should be included as a place of higher learning where people can go for training, also, Martin University.

The topic of Job center has been very popular in discussions with other committees during the planning process for UNWA. One common suggestion for a proposed Job Center would be to have representatives from businesses and colleges at the center and have a space to meet with people in the community.

Need to have a neighborhood business association to organize businesses and a faith-based association to organize churches. These associations should work toward getting information to citizens of UNWA via a newsletter, or some other means.

Education – Long-term goals for UNWA

1. Educate persons on computer literacy.
2. Raise awareness of needs to increase knowledge of technology, including computer training.

Communication –

1. UNWA needs an information center where people can go to obtain community information, like a web site.
2. Should include state representatives to put UNWA news in their newsletters.

Problems in UNWA include a large number of persons without vehicle transportation. Flanner House and UNWA have computers for people to learn on, but not enough people motivated or with the transportation to get to facility. Thus, resources are there, but, not being utilized to full potential.

Businesses on the Eastside were welcomed to the neighborhood by a 'welcome wagon'. The welcome wagon is no longer in place. Should start a 'welcome wagon' in UNWA to encourage businesses to hire people who live in UNWA.

A goal for furthering education in UNWA would be to increase internet training and have GED courses through this service.

Another goal would be to continue education of persons in entry-level positions to further their education through continuing education programs through high schools and higher education facilities, ie. IVTC, Martin University, IUPUI.

UNWA has to make available the resources for people to gain a GED.

Suggestions were made to have surveys sent out to businesses to get information of what they need and require for employment. This could help initiate programs specifically for those businesses.

Education leaders indicate that only 18% of IPS students go on to gain 2- or 4-year education degrees.

Should focus on the three elementary schools in UNWA to help improve that statistic.

UNWA cannot enforce this problem, but could encourage better education.

Some GED programs are failing (Flanner House, Holy Angels) because of lack of motivation.

Churches: Churches can be a guiding light to children and counsel them (Faith-based programs)

Some churches could start continuing education programs such as automobile body training, carpentry, etc.

Goals:

1. Get a web site started as a resource for persons to obtain community information and programs offered by various educational facilities, business information, etc.
2. Form Business Association and a Faith-based Association.
3. Need a plan to get people who are not on-line the training they need in computer literacy.

Attendance:

Facilitator: John R. Hall

Members: Robert Polk, Emma Sullivan, French Tibbs, Lena Tibbs, and Vikki Whorton-Alexander

Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Employment, Education and Jobs Committee will be Thursday, November 11 at 5:30 p.m. at Riverside Center Conference Room.

Notes taken by Jeff York, Department of Metropolitan Development, City of Indianapolis.

Visit <http://www.unwa.org/> for more information regarding the plan.