

**UNWA Town Hall Meeting**  
**UNWA, Inc. and UNWA Development Corp. Discussion**  
**October 14, 2004**

**Facilitator:** Lillian Davis

**Discussion:**

Lillian Davis started the discussion by asking people to express their opinions regarding the importance of UNWA, Inc. The responses follow. There is no prioritization in the listing.

1. UNWA, Inc. represents the neighborhood in important meetings, such as public hearings at the City-County Building.
2. The community needs a voice, such as UNWA, Inc.
3. UNWA, Inc. is very important. Everyone in the neighborhood should support UNWA, Inc.
4. The ministers of the UNWA neighborhood would have a more effective voice if they banded together and discussed plans. They could then communicate with the UNWA, Inc. board. An example is that they could develop a plan for neighborhood youth programs.
5. Churches are very involved with the community.
6. Recently, several churches came together to host a carnival in Watkins Park.
7. The community needs more information regarding what UNWA, Inc. does and what they need. Having this information in writing will be helpful, but it has to be communicated verbally and in person, also.
8. Northside New Era Church has bought a building on Burdsal Parkway that they want to use for senior programs. They have had discussions with the UNWA Board regarding future plans.
9. UNWA, Inc. has a lack of resources. How can it be strengthened?
10. Many of the women involved in the community are churchwomen. Some attend services outside the neighborhood.
11. There are nearly 100 churches in the UNWA neighborhood. These churches have a big responsibility.
12. Maybe the UNWA, Inc. Board can send a letter to the ministers to start a discussion regarding more cooperative efforts between UNWA, Inc. and the churches. An appeal needs to be made in person, also.
13. UNWA, Inc. needs to clearly state their needs so agencies and institutions, such as the churches, can determine how they can help. Contributors to UNWA, Inc. will need to know what they are getting for their money. People need information regarding UNWA, Inc. and their mission. It will take communication.
14. UNWA, Inc. needs to establish a mission statement and have goals and objectives. They need to have a budget and a business plan.
15. UNWA, Inc. used to receive City of Indianapolis funding. This funding has stopped, and it has not been adequately replaced. The organization now survives with grant dollars and neighborhood initiative dollars.
16. Information is needed regarding existing services provided by agencies in the neighborhood. The document, "UNWA Neighborhood Plan - Resources" that was handed out at the town hall meeting, may be a starting point to creating a list of services and agencies.

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

17. UNWA, Inc. owns two buildings. One is the Bosma Building and the other is the UNWA, Inc. office at 1100 West 30<sup>th</sup> Street. A committee is now examining the options for both buildings. They will make a recommendation, based upon the facts, to the UNWA, Inc. board. The board will then make a decision regarding the two buildings.
18. Churches and businesses are stakeholders in the community and need to be actively involved in efforts to improve the community. When stakeholders are quiet, they lose their stake.
19. UNWA, Inc. used to have a budget, staff, a yearly neighborhood congress and by-laws. As an organization, it was started in the 1950s. There used to be 300-500 people involved. The organization has only one part time staff person now. It used to be one of the strongest organizations in the city. It is now weak. It has become fragmented. Still, UNWA, Inc. is vital to the neighborhood.
20. UNWA, Inc. should be the voice of the community. It should have total involvement in the community. It needs to be involved in housing, family and neighborhood stability issues.
21. More information regarding home repairs is needed.
22. The community needs to start building the organization again.
23. UNWA, Inc. can provide a food pantry, but more information regarding existing food pantries in the community is needed.
24. Northside New Era Baptist gives away \$20,000 worth of food in the neighborhood each year. They distribute 200 Christmas dinners each year.
25. It was pointed out that some people will take advantage of assistance, and so access to assistance services may need to be monitored. UNWA, Inc. could play a role in the distribution of assistance. There could be collaboration between the UNWA, Inc. board and the ministers to identify people that need assistance in the neighborhood.
26. There is a man who drives a bus around the neighborhood giving away vegetables.
27. A question was asked regarding how the UNWA, Inc. board is selected. Board members are elected. All UNWA neighborhood organizations have a possible voice in the elections. Any community resident can attend the UNWA, Inc. meetings and have a voice. They don't need to be a member of a neighborhood organization.
28. The UNWA, Inc. board should be more aggressive in seeking funding. There is money available from non-profits for neighborhood improvements. It would be helpful if a number of churches and institutions in the community could pool their resources and hire a grant writer to seek funding.
29. A question was asked regarding which institutions and agencies work in the neighborhood now. The committee developed the following list.
 

Housing assistance is available at:

  - Northside New Era Baptist. They have adopted their block.
  - Flanner House has assisted with housing in the past, and may still do so.
  - Cityview Christian. They assist people with rent and house payments.
  - Holy Angels. They provide assistance through St. Vincent De Paul.
  - Pilgrim Baptist.

Senior programs are available at:

  - First Baptist of North Indianapolis
  - Puritan Baptist
  - Barnes United Methodist
  - Flanner House
  - Northside New Era Baptist

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

- First Freewill Baptist
- Ebenezer Baptist Church
- Riverside Family Recreation Center

Youth programs are available at:

- UNWA, Inc. They have after school tutoring/mentoring, UNWA Peace Corp-Leadership Clubs, UNWA Soap Box Derby team, Art Reach- entrepreneurial art workshops, Garden of Life-community garden and Peace in the Streets music/video production.
  - Northside New Era Baptist. They spend the most money, of any of their ministries on youth ministry. They have 200-500 youth involved in Y-Task at weekly meetings. They have youth field trips. They send 50-60 youth a year to a week of summer camp. They gear their programs by age group.
  - First Freewill Baptist. They have youth bowling, Boy Scouts and dance.
  - Flanner House
  - Ebenezer Baptist Church
  - Riverside Family Recreation Center
  - Watkins Family Recreation Center
  - Cityview Christian Center
  - Christ Missionary Baptist Church
30. The participants expressed the feeling that there should be a comprehensive questionnaire distributed to neighborhood institutions and agencies seeking information regarding the services they provide in the community.
31. There needs to be a partnership between UNWA, Inc. and the churches in the community. Everyone can come together for the greater good of the community. Should there be a joint meeting of church representatives and neighborhood leadership? As resources shrink, resources should be pooled to make them cover as much as possible. UNWA, Inc. and the church family need to work together and therefore create a whole community.

**People who have agreed to be on the UNWA, Inc. and UNWA DC Committee:**

Facilitator: Lillian Davis

Members: Raymond Carter, Emma Henry, Judy Hudson, Leona Hurd, Steven Roberts, Delores Thorton, and Vikki Whorton Alexander.

**Next Meeting :**

**The next meeting of the UNWA Neighborhood Plan UNWA, Inc. and UNWA DC Committee will be Saturday, October 23 at 10:00 a.m. at UNWA, Inc.**

Notes taken by Bob Wilch, Department of Metropolitan Development, City of Indianapolis

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