

11 June 2008

WEEKLY MEETING OF NWQ STUDY GROUP

Attending from the Study Group: Bob Pinkerton, John Gasden, James Bellew, Dwayne Smalley, Pete Palmer

Not attending: Al Hefner, Henrietta Goode

Attending from the public: Mayor Keyserling, Donna Alley, Evan Thompson, Charlotte Brown, Collin Davidson, Naomi Lewis, Mark Krueger, Jay Weidner, Jvonne Williams, Josh Garrett

Key Points Were:

- Dwayne Smalley introduced a nine point questionnaire – 10 points if you count the request for photographs of the building. This is a dramatic reduction from the 61 questions on the previous iteration. It is not intrusive. Dwayne Smalley and Jvonne Williams will conduct a pilot run this weekend with Smalley family Church friends.
- The “Q” is not ‘a community,’ rather consists of three or perhaps even more communities. It is time to get the word into those communities about how they can look into maximizing utilization of their property – through zoning and code modifications as well as access to funding. John Gasden will be on the radio at eight am on Saturday 13 June.
- On the one hand there are buildings that contribute to the history of the “Q” and great effort should go into saving them.
- On the other hand, close to half of the “Q” consists of empty lots or with dangerously dilapidated houses. These lots cry out for in-fill of appropriately sized (form base perhaps) work force housing:
 - For police, firemen, school teachers, hospital staff, and perhaps military.
 - Student housing assistance through the Housing Trust Fund – to support the planned (hoped for?) Beaufort College of the Arts.
 - As discussed last week, an Urban Design Center could play a significant role.
 - Architects should be encouraged to show what can be done in the property and square footage pertinent to the “Q.”

- And, wouldn't it be grand if the housing were 'green' and demanded less from the energy grid. Technologies can and should be made available to enable appropriate in-fill.
- Property (indigenous) owners in the "Q", especially multiple property owners, could become de facto developers.
- For the 18 June meeting – which will be brief to enable interested attendees to go to the Main Street annual meeting – that Mayor Keyserling will address.
 - We will get feed back on the pilot survey efforts this weekend.
 - We will get feed back on John Gasden' s radio time as well as other ideas on how best to get the word out about this effort.
 - HBF will continue their house by house research on historically contributing homes as well as vacant lots that once were home to historically contributing Lots of discussion about how best to introduce this information seeking effort to the community.

Humbly Submitted by Pete Palmer