

**Notes NW Quadrant Study Group  
May 21, 2009 1211 Boundary Street**

Attending: Palmer, Bellew, Dowling, Smalley, Gadson, Goode, Hefner, Keyserling, Budds, Thompson

Smalley: working with TCL to provide a questionnaire to gauge opinions of NWQ residents – TCL students interested in community services project. This may be coordinated with the Beaufort Three Century Project.

Thompson: need a purpose statement. What is the end result? Look at vacant and abandoned list, who owns, why vacant. Focus our energy on something productive. We only have a short time to complete.

Palmer: What motivates us is that we need to understand the neighborhood.

Keyserling: survey will not tell much about abandoned houses. We need to find out what the houses are and save the ones we can. To grow the neighborhood we need to dig deeper. My vision is to put attention toward a broad-based plan.

Palmer: Our vision as I understand it is to preserve what is historic and to revitalize the neighborhood.

Goode: I have concern. Council's main concern is 23 houses. Let's start there.

Palmer: If we focus on only the 23 we are perceived as focusing on demolition. I prefer to go back to Council with recommendations. We don't have to have all of the answers.

Keyserling: There will be dollars coming but we need a plan for opportunities.

Goode: I'm afraid this will be just be another fire that dies out.

Keyserling: We need a design center. We need money and we need to engage the community and to maintain a reliable process of review. Let's start next week with the 23 or even 2 or 3 families as our focus group. Report back to the committee next week.

Hefner: We all share the same vision. I am concerned about the interview process. Have to ask direct questions.

Gadson: Getting information is important a community group came to council years ago with a plan for the UDAG money to repair houses. That money went to improve Bladen

Street instead. This report identified 40 houses. Most of us here are outsiders looking in. We see things differently. We should look at what information we have already. We can take 4 or 5 recommendations back to Council.

Keyserling: It seems the existing surveys are only one piece. Henrietta as chair could put together a “focus group” of residents to help us develop the right questions.

Palmer: I am not afraid of what we will hear.

Keyserling: We need to identify the houses, name them, etc. as we have in the other historic neighborhoods, The Point, Old Commons, etc.

Goode: When we finish will our information be put into a data base?

Smalley: I could help with this.

Keyserling: Michael Burgess of TCL and Anthony **Baxter could help us with this and should be included in future meetings.**

**Perhaps we need to break out into teams or various tasks to report back at next week’s meeting.**

**Thompson: We will come back with a list of every vacant and abandoned house in the NWQ.**

**Bellew: I will come back with a list of available financial programs.**

**Budds: I am working on the Form Based Code.**

**Goode: I will canvas the neighborhood to get some to form a neighborhood association.**

**Smalley: I will e-mail the draft interview questionnaire and photos I have taken of NWQ houses. I have 45 so far and I am working on a web site.**

**Goode: We could present this web site to the focus group and get feed back.**

**Gadson: I will help Henrietta.**

**Thompson: Could John and Donna do a flow chart of the review process and bring that back to us?**

**Meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM**

Note taker: Donna Alley