



## Frederick Elementary

### Workshop, February 11, 2015

### Meeting Notes

### Kyle Leggs - SW District Planner

The first INSPIRE workshop for Frederick Elementary was held on February 11, 2015 at the school (2501 Frederick Avenue). A total of 34 people participated in the workshop, including representatives from the school, community organizations, faith based organizations, Bon Secours, Family League, City Planning, and other City agencies. Participants learned about the INSPIRE process and collaboratively examined the existing conditions of the area surrounding Frederick Elementary, specifically identifying strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities.

The following themes and topics were discussed in the workshop:

#### **COMMUNITY CAPACITY BUILDING:**

##### Strengths:

- Financial literacy program with M & T Bank
- Shutdown Academy - Keion Carpenter
- School Mentor Program afterschool
- Residents - community energy/capacity
- Community organizations doing job training and childcare
- New renovation and addition to Frederick Elementary School

##### Weaknesses:

- Lack of political support
- Food desert
- Lack of employment
- Less priority on educational attainment over the years perceived to be due to previous industrial based job community
- Lack of Education (low percentage of parents with GEDs)
- Perception of area from outside
- Kids lack access to technology
- Neighborhood lacks a library
- Residents are too transient which causes lack of investment in the community

##### Opportunities:

- Teaching residents to be better advocates for themselves
- Community office for financial literacy
- Educational murals focused on the kids
- Sharing history of neighborhood
- Samuel F.B Morse building could potentially serve as a library, computer center, or PAL Center in the future
- Train people in the community to make improvements and maintain them
- Education of parents regarding school expectations

- Job creation through community development
- Promote service organizations like the Cub Scouts
- Historical Murals
- Kedesh House of Prayer Church (2500 W. Lombard St.) owns vacant building across the street at SE corner of Hollins and Catherine Street and wants to create a recreation center\*
- Academy of Success (200 Franklinton Road) has a vision to develop their site as a location that could offer GED training, fitness center, early childhood learning, and perhaps residential \*
- Explore Willard family history\*
- Partner with Baltimore City Police to create police lead "Sector Community Teams" comprised of faith-based, residents, youth, and businesses to create an "Engaged Presence Produces Reduction (EPPR) strategy to address public safety issues and crime\*"
  - o EPPR examples include Good Neighbor Walks, Prayer Walks, Exercise Walks, and Motorized Canvasses throughout the community

## **TRANSPORTATION**

### Strengths:

- Bus Access
- Proximity to downtown Baltimore

### Weaknesses:

- Dulany Street sidewalks
- 300 Block of Millington needs sidewalk fixed and traffic calming measures and/or speed humps
- Too many trucks on Franklinton Road causing traffic backups, property damage and unsafe conditions for pedestrians (Manger's Meat processing facility needs better truck site ingress and egress)\*
- Baltimore Street (700 Block) is a traffic hazard for Gwynns Falls Trail connection (Explore traffic control)
- Lack of walkability and needs to be safer\*
- Dulany Street and Millington Ave. - no sidewalks, no traffic light, dangerous to cross
- Constant problems with the high volume of heavy dump truck business causing traffic and parking problems at 100 S. Franklinton Road\*

### Opportunities:

- Need future pedestrian crosswalk(s) at Catherine and Ashton for school kids
- Increased walkability that is safe

## **HOUSING/PUBLIC WORKS**

### Strengths:

- Home ownership

### Weaknesses:

- Blighted housing along 300 block of Catherine and 100 block of Willard Street\*
- Need code enforcement to address poor and peeling vinyl siding at 2523 Ashton Street\*
- Substandard housing, especially rentals/Section 8
- People living in alley garages located on Emerson Street near Franklinton Road\*
- Dulany St and Millington Ave. - trashed lots
- Trash and Dumping: outsiders and residents discard trash anywhere because they don't have any investment in the community.
- Dumping on Lehman Street right behind Frederick Elementary School off of Millington
- Dumping in alley behind 300 block of Catherine Street(Odd side)
- Used to have sanitation police that enforced improper trash disposal

- Trash left uncollected by Citywide Community Clean Up on April 25th
- Community used to be able to get dumpsters more regularly
- Dumping at former bus loop on Baltimore Street overlooking Gwynns Falls & Trail\*
- Dumping on vacant corner lots located at Catherine & Lombard Streets \*
- Alley trash behind 300 & 400 block of Smallwood Street\*
- Constant problems with heavy dump truck business with dumping and code enforcement issues at 100 S. Franklinton Road\*
- Lack of planning between city services

Opportunities:

- Increased code enforcement for dumping and building maintenance
- Block off Street or put barriers on Lehman Street below school to prevent dumping
- Engage the Carpenter House - Keion Carpenter (Head of Shutdown Academy & Former NFL Player – as a potential investor for additional housing)
- Bentalou Street used to be referred to as Millionaires Row when the houses were first built
- Targeted demolition
- Give Renters 1st opportunity to purchase homes

**RECREATION & OPEN SPACE**

Strengths:

- Catherine ABC Park (Soon to undergo a complete renovation)
- Gwynns Falls Valley/Trail

Weaknesses:

- Wall along Gwynns Falls trail is old and needs to be restored \*
- Gwynns Falls is part of National Historic Area\*
- Issues with managing open space left from demolition (Often leads to vacant lots used for dumping)

Opportunities:

- Renewed Clean and Green Program (need more resources, better collection)
- Clean, beautify and enhance the former bus loop at 700 Baltimore Street overlooking the Gwynns Falls & Trail as a pocket park destination with picnic benches (Remove asphalt & concrete - Possible active park with trees) Coordinate with Neighborhood Design Center – NDC\*
- Need better lighting at playground next to Kedesh House of Prayer Church (2500 W. Lombard Street)\*
- Enhance Gwynns Falls Trail connection entrance at Frederick Avenue
- Explore opportunity for an Industrial Historical Park near Gwynns Falls Trail\*
- Hollins Street Park is 1970's Era and has potential for upgrade\*
- The Planning Department's Growing Green Coordinator wants to fence the vacant lot on Emerson to beautify the area and prevent dumping

**LOCAL BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONAL PARTNERS**

Strengths:

- Businesses - Shopping Center
- Hospital - Bon Secours
- Churches - St. Benedicts, Kedesh House of Prayer
- Tony & Mary's Corner Grocery Store (NBC make over store) at 13 S. Franklinton Road
- Food Depot and Johns Hopkins Bloomberg Center for a Livable Future
- Horizon Herbs
- Wells Fargo
- Business support of community

Weaknesses:

- Industrial businesses that once provided jobs are closed and have been vacant for years
- Illegal commercial practices
- Retail leakage - residents go outside of the community for goods and services
- Too many carry-outs

Opportunities:

- Improvements at Westside Shopping Center - healthy food; JHU, Center for Livable Futures and Food Depot need to promote existing healthy food options
- Continue developing relationships with businesses that support the community and tell them what the community needs are
- More local businesses need to support the community

**PUBLIC SAFETY/NUISANCES**

Weaknesses:

- Drug activity on Dulany Street
- Open air drug market, especially present at bus stops
- Lack of positive police involvement/relationships
- Baltimore Behavioral House "BBH" in 400 Block of Millington (Halfway House/Transitional House) - Ex Con's, Drug Rehab, Recovery
- Crime

Opportunities:

- Improve police relations with community

**NOTE:**

\* Comments noted prior to the workshop during meetings with Pastor Mullen (Kedesh House of Prayer in Shipley Hill) along with Lt Col. Russell, Baltimore City Police & SWD officers, a tour with Mr. Marty Howe, President - Mill Hill, meeting with Rev. Barnwell - Academy of Success, and other stakeholder meetings.