

# INSPIRE

Investing in Neighborhoods and  
Schools to Promote Improvement,  
Revitalization, and Excellence



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## Lyndhurst Elementary

### **Workshop #2, January 28, 2015** **Meeting Notes**

The second INSPIRE workshop for Lyndhurst Elementary School was held January 28, 2015 at Lyndhurst Elementary School (621 Wildwood Parkway) from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM. A total of 34 people participated in the workshop including residents and various agency representatives from Baltimore Housing, Code Enforcement, DPW (Solid Waste), Recreation and Parks, Transportation, Baltimore Development Corporation, Baltimore Police (SWD), Neighborhood Design Center (NDC) and staff from Baltimore City Planning.

### **Workshop Participants:**

Dr. Sherelle Lowe - Principal, Lyndhurst Elem.  
Ms. Johbonh Byrd - Resident  
Mr. Adrian Mitchell - President, Edgewood  
Ms. Jean Allen - Edgewood Community  
Ms. Cynthia Shaw - President, Lyndhurst  
Ms. Wanda Wallace - V.P. Allendale  
Mr. Kristerfer Burnett - Resident  
Fr. Richard Bozzelli - St. Bernadine Church  
Mr. Kyle Leggs - Planning  
Ms. Katie-Rose Imbriano - Planning  
Ms. Heather Martin - Planning  
Ms. Amy Gilder-Busatti - Planning  
Mr. Aaron Bond - Planning  
Mr. Martin French - Planning  
Mr. Mike Galdi - Planning  
Sgt. Rebecca Duncan - Police Dept. SW- NSU  
Ms. Laura Wheaton - NDC

Ms. Tonya Simmons - DPW  
Mr. John Chalmers - DPW  
Ms. Brandi Welsh - DPW  
Ms. Tiffany Walker - DPW  
Mr. Blair Griffith - Housing  
Ms. Shenae Carter - Housing  
Ms. Sandra Matier - City DOT  
Ms. Astrina Calame - City DOT  
Mr. Fleming El-Amin - DOT Red Line  
Mr. Jarren Williams - MTA Red Line  
Ms. Tracey Estep - Rec. & Parks  
Mr. Courtney Jackson - Rec. & Parks  
Ms. Sharon Buckner - Rec. & Parks  
Mr. Mark Bonitatibus - Rec. & Parks  
Mr. James Lawrence - Rec. & Parks  
Mr. Dave Garza - BDC  
Mr. Benjamin Hobbs - BDC

### **Workshop Summary**

The workshop featured a PowerPoint presentation that included an overview of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Initiative, and background information about INSPIRE. Residents were presented with a summary of the issues that were raised in the first workshop and afterwards heard from agency representatives (4 Groups Total) who discussed a number of recommendations for those issues.

After each agency presented their recommendations, residents were allowed to ask questions and state any new issues or concerns. Please find below the recommendations from each agency's workshop group and the additional comments given by the residents.

## **Workshop Groups (4) Topic Categories:**

### **Recreation and Open Space**

Baltimore City Recreation and Parks (BCRP) staff indicated that they are doing a 10 year Recreation Master Plan and that Recreation Centers attached to schools would be new/renovated.

BCRP staff also indicated that they have brochures available for Recreation Center activities, and that they would like to better connect with residents to bring them in. Staff also noted that recreational programming is based on requests and that residents should contact the Director or Area Manager for program needs. It was also mentioned that boxing programs are available at the Upton Boxing Center.

More opportunities are being targeted to partner with schools for pool programming as Recreation and Parks is planning to develop more pools. BCRP staff indicated that they currently have approximately 17 pools under their agency and that there were only 2 pools in area schools.

Staff stated that the Lyndhurst Edgewood Recreation Centers is open from 8am to 8pm during the summer and on school days. It was also noted that BCRP was awarded more funds to improve internet access in the Recreation Center.

BCRP staff indicated that they will not support any dirt bike programs because dirt bikes are illegal.

BCRP staff mentioned that there might be an opportunity to create an urban farm on the vacant lot located at 700 Denison. Planning staff indicated that that site had previously been used for something similar and that new efforts were underway to work with the community and the Neighborhood Design Center (NDC) to create more of a neighborhood amenity or community space with perhaps a gazebo style setting. Any desired uses would be discussed in collaboration with the community.

Parks and People are also working on asphalt removal & a garden on the lot across the street.

### **Community Concerns:**

The dumpster at the Lyndhurst Recreation Center was said to be a problem with trash overflows. BCRP staff indicated that they are aware of the problem and have already begun to remedy the issue by meeting with DPW and contracting to have a locked dumpster placed at the Rec Center.

Residents stated that they feel the Rec Center area is unsafe at night that more lights are needed at the Rec Center. BCRP indicated that lighting improvements were part of their capital plan but noted that they would also need approval from the residents across the street.

Residents also spoke of them having to break up fights and asked if there was a lack of Rec Center supervision. BCRP staff indicated that they can only address kids participating in BCRP programs.

**\*NOTE: On Tuesday Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup> Department of Planning staff attended the Edmondson Village Community Association meeting to talk about INSPIRE, and also to collect any additional community concerns. Below are the concerns that were noted:**

1. Beautifying the triangular flag pole lot at Gelston and Woodington
2. Getting assistance from R&P to improve batting cages that the community often paints; and better conditions and the use of softball field(s) at or near Stokes Lane and Seminole.
3. Community leader is also interested in starting a softball league.
4. Fields along Leakin Parks edge should be used for more active recreation
5. Residents want to know what is or will be happening to recreation center space at Rognel Heights

### **Housing and Sanitation**

Housing will be implementing a Zone Plan Strategy and targeting Four (4) hotspot quadrants for building code violations and around Lyndhurst Elementary School. Targeted Zone Plan areas will them move eastward towards Edgewood and outward to target additional areas in the community.

Housing informed residents about how to bid on housing auctions.

Housing indicated that there are 179 vacants in this area and that over 60 are in receivership.

To help strengthen homeownership, the neighborhood should be marketed through Live Baltimore. Examples include: Pictures, stories and profiles of the neighborhood, neighborhood Ambassadors, and marketing to 1<sup>st</sup> time homebuyers.

Help homeowners do repairs.

Support Healthy Neighborhoods Program in Edmondson Village. This should be restarted.

The Property Management Division of DPW carries out sanitation work orders (Example, rats, dumping)

DPW staff stressed the importance to residents that, "If you see dumping...Call it in". They also stressed the need for resident behavior changes regarding litter.

DPW staff stated that there is a need to educate residents about DPW's Five (5) Citizen Service Centers or drop off spots for bulk trash.

DPW will work with the Special Investigative Unit to investigate large scale dumping behind the 700 block of Denison and also in the area near Stokes Drive.

Community Concerns:

600 – 1100 Blocks of Lyndhurst Avenue has increasing vacancies. What can they, the community association do?

838 Lyndhurst Ave... Good example of rehabilitation project, but interested parties did not have adequate down payment.

There is a need to address dumping hot spots such as the alley behind the 700 block of Denison.

**Transportation**

To address the issue of walkability for seniors and children, DOT suggested that a walkability study be done in the community surrounding the school that both the Planning Department and DOT would work together on.

For the 3400 block of Gelston sidewalks, DOT will have this block investigated by their Footway Section and target for any necessary repairs. It may take a couple of years to make permanent repairs, although temporary repairs will be made to address any safety issues.

Edmondson Avenue and Lyndhurst Intersection (Walkability): DOT will have their Traffic Division investigate and make recommendations for improvements to the intersection.

The alley behind 700 Block of Denison (West alley) will be referred to the Alley Section to see if there is any way that access can be improved. DOT will also refer this location to their Maintenance Section and/or DPW to have the trash and weeds taken care of.

The Edmonson Village Shopping Center parking lot is in need of resurfacing. This is private property and DOT does not repair or repave the right of way. The community should work with the property owner to help get this issue resolved.

Community Concerns:

Will students graduating from the nearby Mary Rodman Elementary be attending the new Lyndhurst Elementary Middle...and if so, how can we improve transportation to the school?

Need to correct poor lighting in the alley behind the 700 block of Denison (West alley).

Additional concerns were mentioned for crossing Edmondson Avenue with the new Red Line. The Safe Routes to School Program can and attempts to address this with the five E's...

(1) Evaluation, (2) Engineering, (3) Education, (4) Encouragement, and (5) Enforcement.

Residents are concerned about the MTA deciding to eliminate the bus stop at Edmondson and Wildwood Parkway because of the future Red Line and want it to remain at Wildwood Parkway if and when the Red Line is built.

## **Community & Economic Development and Public Safety**

Baltimore Development Corp (BDC) staff indicated that there are a number of programs in place that could possibly help with some of the commercial problems. These include:

1. Micro loan programs that are available
2. Gap financing programs
3. Business Service Center Programs
4. Tools for entrepreneurs and small businesses
5. Corner store support

\*Please note that recommendations for issues regarding public safety as noted in the first workshop will be incorporated into the overall plan.

### **Community Concerns:**

Resident shared his interest in having some type of support for those who want to start a 501 C-3 or 501 C-4 in the community.