

Housing Focus Group

Meeting Notes from Committee Meeting
Held on **December 6, 2005**, City Hall

Present: Rev. Deborah Dresser, Lillian Frederiksen (note taker), Deirdre Glenn, Betsy McKean, Ramona Monteverde, Yvette Norat, Juana Rocha, Charles H. Woodard

ITEMS DISCUSSED

(1) Questionnaires: This task will be handled by the Steering Committee and Courtney. Mount Saint Mary College students canvassed the Heights area and got 40 questionnaires back. They will present their findings at a public forum on 12/7 at the Rec. Center. This concludes their formal participation. Problems they found with the existing master plan questionnaires and their own survey forms include giving them to persons who cannot read or write Spanish or English. They concluded that an interview method seemed best and also gives an opportunity to explain the program.

(2) Committee Membership: Others who may be interested in joining are: Eileen Robertson, Drew Kartiganer, Judith Deming, Byron Williams (Deborah will contact), John Frontera, David McTamane, Sr. Norma, Anthony Marino, Vera Best, Pam Buxton, Animal, Max Keller (Deirdre will contact the last three).

(3) Next Stakeholders group meeting is 12/19 at 7PM at OCCC.

(4) Questions for this committee include:

- a. Can the pursuit of gentrification and affordable housing co-exist?
- b. How many abandoned and/or vacant housing units exist in Newburgh?
- c. Can RECAP/Middletown help us with their experience?
- d. How many housing/rental units are available?
- e. Is it true that 70% of Newburgh's residents are renters?
- f. Is our density as high as NYC and is it higher or lower in certain areas?
- g. What is the census tract information? What is the demographic information?
- h. What is the "inclusionary housing" information that may be available from Pratt?
(Deirdre) *Note: Copies of this now available from Betsy through Deirdre.*
- i. What is Jonathan Rose's Green Housing program? (Deborah)
- j. Can Habitat get city owned houses? Deirdre said "20 houses within 3 years."
Note: 70 families apply to Habitat each year.
- k. What is the number and percentage of senior and rent-subsidized housing? (Lillian)

(5) Immediate aim of this committee: Collect as complete an inventory and description of housing units as possible.