SALISBURY COMMUNITY APPEARANCE COMMISSION

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Neighborhoods & Education Committee
Neighborhood Leaders Alliance Subcommittee
Friday, September 17, 2010
12 p.m.
217 South Main Street

MINUTES

In attendance: Greta Connor, Selma Dansokho, Almeader Holt, Lou Manning, Sue McHugh, Sean Meyers (Co-Chair), Barbara Perry, Doug Robinson, Sara Robinson, Bill Safrit, Barbara Sorel, and Ken Weaver

City Staff: Maggie Blackwell, Janet Gapen, Diana Moghrabi, Colleen Murtaugh and Lynn Raker

The meeting began with lunch and greeting time. This committee last met August 13, 2010. Selma Dansokho and Mayor Pro-Tem Maggie Blackwell were introduced to the committee. Selma has an interest in community development and program evaluation.

BUILDING NEIGHBORHOOD ACCOUNTABILITY

A subcommittee of the CAC Neighborhoods and Education / Neighborhood Leaders Alliance (NLA) met this day to prepare the program for presentation to the NLA in October.

Jackie Harris, with United Way in Salisbury, is excited about the proposal and has offered support for the project. The mission of the Rowan County United Way is to provide community-wide leadership in developing the resources and means to deliver needed human care services in the following ways:

- Consolidate fundraising to support continuous growth of necessary services.
- Promote ongoing education in all areas: community, business, and agencies.
- Evaluate and advise member agencies on effective use of resources.
- Assess community needs through short- and long-range planning to assure the provision of balanced services to the community.

Rowan County United Way brings the community together to help people improve their lives. By wisely investing the community's time, money and caring, we accomplish this together.

Jackie Harris just finished up "A Day of Caring" and was not able to attend today. This "Block Work" program could be run like "A Day of Caring." Many groups from all over Rowan County come together as volunteers to help and pull together their resources.

Jackie and Lynn prepared a grant application for this "Block Work" project and submitted it to the Salisbury Community Foundation in the amount of $10,000. We should hear whether it was awarded in early December. That will help with expenses for "Block Work." The proposed budget includes food, t-shirts, and $8,700 for materials. The rest would be in-kind. Some materials could be donated or highly discounted.

We are looking at doing the "Block Work" program around March. Jackie will help organize the work teams. This will give the subcommittee time to choose the neighborhood and work through any red tape. The goal is to do the work in one day. Tools and materials will be on the site when volunteers arrive.

At the last meeting, we discussed what the guidelines will include. Copies of the cover letter, guidelines, and the application were kept simple and distributed to the subcommittee.

Preliminary meetings with potential applicants will be held to introduce this program. The subcommittee will tour the neighborhoods with city staff from various departments. Public services may be able to repair sidewalks; Code Services will be able to point out what is out of compliance, etc. They will have advocates from the neighborhood on the tour. Feasibility would be evaluated.

Lou Manning asked if there was a list of what could or could not be done. We should be able to do some minor exterior carpentry like stabilizing a porch or steps to a house.

Most of the work will probably fall under minor works. If a block is chosen in a local historic district, the proposal may need to go to the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) for approval.

Mayor Pro-Tem Maggie Blackwell and Mayor Susan Kluttz are in full support of the program. Maggie said she cannot imagine what City Council would not like about it. At the first of the year, CAC should present this to City Council like they do their annual goals. (Later in the meeting it was determined that an earlier Council presentation would be necessary to allow adequate time to prepare for March event.)

The beauty of this project is that it is a public/private partnership. This is personal involvement for greater good–helping those who help themselves.

The subcommittee will need to follow up with education and periodic review. We will need a contact that, at least, lives in the neighborhood—not necessarily in the block where the work was done.

OTHER

- There was an additional discussion on grass clippings that are blown into the street and clog the drains and litter the streets. There is a need to educate the public to clean up grass clippings.

- Colleen Murtaugh is interested in the standardization of boarding up houses.

- Investigate the Wal-Mart grant and other similar grants or sources.

- It would be great if another entity would pick this program up on an ongoing basis.

- Janet Gapen introduced the 2010 Salisbury Fair Housing Survey. The City of Salisbury is conducting a study of compliance with fair housing laws, barriers to housing choice and the extent of housing discrimination in the community.

  Surveys are due October 15. Take the survey online: www.salisburync.gov (Look under "Highlights") Tell your neighbors.

- Fall Spruce-up Days October 18-23 for all residents within the City limits.

NEXT STEPS

- Sue McHugh is interested in helping to develop a timeline.

- Define the duties of the contact person (aka Block Captain).

- Market the program.

- *Hold the date*—October 28 for the NLA meeting at One Water Street—to be confirmed by the Neighborhoods and Education Committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:28p.m.