

Housing Authority of the County of Sacramento

**CHOICE NEIGHBORHOODS INITIATIVE
River District - Railyards**

Twin Rivers Resident Meeting Minutes

April 25, 2012

6:00 PM

Resident Attendees: Phillip McFadden, Avon Tyra Brown, Lola Trevino-Benavidez, Hila Sachel, Jacoolla Moody, La Norma Dillard, Jerome Lottie, Douglas Haymaker, Ramona Koch, Mary Litalier, Reggie Foster, Howard Jones, S. Maurice Washington, Joan Woodworth, France Grace, Carlos Herrera, Gatha Simmons, Klaria Hutcherson, Charlie Woods, DeCoe Gilmore, Eleanor Morales, Chelsah Hoskins, Cecilia Reyes.

Others Present: Nick Chhotu, Cassandra Jennings, Lynne Cannady (LPC & Associates), Patrick Bohner, Nick Baral, Londell Earls, Jerome Lottie (RDFC).

1. Welcome and Introductions - Cassandra Jennings, Chair, Steering Committee

- a. Self-Introductions included the name and what is their understanding of the Choice Neighborhoods Initiative. A significant number of persons indicated that it was their first time and they did not know what it was about. The others responded as follows:
 - i. A voice to speak out
 - ii. Opinion
 - iii. Residents having a “say so” on how the change will affect them
 - iv. Survey/evaluation
 - v. Growth, change, job opportunities
 - vi. Wonderful think
 - vii. Community input/participation is important
 - viii. Parent involvement encouraged
 - ix. More businesses to the community
 - x. Security
 - xi. Decisions on how community would come together
 - xii. Changes in the area
 - xiii. Don’t want to move
 - xiv. Residents can get involved
 - xv. More big changes
 - xvi. Insight and creativity
 - xvii. Empower the residents to do something better
 - xviii. Everybody is important
 - xix. Peaceful community – safe for kids to play outside
 - xx. Safety

2. Initiative Update – Nick Chhotu, Sponsor and Director of Housing, SHRA

Nick described the CNI as a HUD Revitalization Program. The Plan includes a holistic approach that will focus not only on the physical structures but the people as well. The Plan will focus on the River District-Railyards and the replacement of the 218 units at Twin Rivers within the River District Railyards target community. The Plan will include redevelopment of the Twin Rivers housing as well as identification of

services needed with the community. The goal is to transform communities as well as the lives of the residents.

The five committees – Housing, Neighborhood, People and Education and Workforce Planning task forces and the Steering Committee successful held kick off meetings last week. Major stakeholders and community leaders such as school superintendent, RT Director, Council person and business owners were at the table. Three of the residents shared their early experience. Avon Brown discussed how good it is to have a ‘say so’ especially in education. She indicated that kids are being bused and will really be lost if we don’t educate them Frances Grace indicated that it will take time to complete however the opportunities are many. DeCoe Gilmore said that the residents can be involved in what kind of neighborhood they want it to be since it has not been built yet. She mentioned that there is not an elementary school and the kindergartens are bused daily.

3. Resident Needs Assessment- Lynne Cannady, LPC & Associates, Inc.

Lynne discussed the survey and emphasized that the Goal is 100% participation. The residents will have three ways to contribute and make money: Outreach, Greeter and Data Entry Opportunities. She distributed flyers. Interested residents can call 449-6250.

4. Resident Discussion –Cassandra Jennings

The residents broke up in Small Group Discussions and discussed the following questions? Each group reported out.

- What are the three top things you like about living at Twin River?
 - Group 1 – Unity in the community, single story units, yards around the units
 - Group 2- Location, Rental Rates, Transportation/bus/light rail
 - Group 3 – Onsite after school program, isolated/stand-alone units/detached, neighbors, neighborhood/ small community
 - Group 4 –Neighbors are nice; income based rent; very green with lots of trees and grass

- What are the top 3 areas you would like be addressed in the Transformation Plan?
 - Group 1 – Security, gated community, bike rack, parents monitoring kids especially in the laundry mat.
 - Group 2 – gated community, Community room or center, books for the children, more stores, washer/dryer hook up
 - Group 3 – Transportation (ends early and walk is not safe to Alkali Flat; train is good but inconvenient), Preschool for every young child, more school age activities.
 - Group 4 – Additional laundry facilities, Security (gun shots last night), lighting (travel to light rail and on premises) Well lit playground, Designated parking.

5. Closing/ Next Steps – Cassandra Jennings

- a. The Resident Meetings will be the 4th Wednesday of each month
- b. Survey Dates are May 8th, 9th, and 10th (Clarified)
- c. Next meeting – Wednesday, May 23, 2012, 6 PM

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM.

Website: www.shra.org/ChoiceNeighborhoodsInitiative.aspx

Voicemail: 916-449-6281