

**June 30, 2020 Scotlandville Working Group
Meeting Notes**

Attendees: Angelle Bradford, Debra Tilson, Judith Ned, Pat LeDuff, Queen MuhammandAli, Jason Lockhart, Edward Anthony, Janet Tharp

1. Introductions - participants introduced themselves and provided a short description of their interest in Scotlandville
2. Scotlandville Community Plan Update Presentation – Janet Tharp
 - Project background and process
 - What we've learned so far
 - Food and rental housing insecurity

3. Discussion - Emerging Priority Topics

From interviews and survey results, priorities fall within 9 broad topics:

- Beautification and walkability
- Promote development in Scotlandville – Business and Residential (+Food)
- Homeowner Improvement Programs
- Business development / entrepreneurial programs
- Youth development
- Infrastructure, transportation, environmental improvements
- Parks, Recreation and Community Services
- Bridge Gap between Southern and neighborhood (physical and relationship)
- Crime

4. Group discussion

Comments from participants

Approach

- Work on smaller attainable strategies such as beautification
- Tell about the wins and then build on the little things
- Show small wins to gather momentum
- This group is interested in getting things done – action
- Identify strategies that can impact issues in the short term – some of these issues are bigger, longer term issues that cannot be solved through this plan (education, crime, etc.). Make sure our strategies result in short term victories.
- Are there similar models to base this redevelopment effort on? (Pat – when the CDC was started 20 years ago a group went to Memphis, Houston, Kansas, Philadelphia to review model community development efforts. Cleveland is a good example as well.

Grocery Store and business development

- Grocery store is key – there is a believe that there is not enough roof tops to support full grocery store. This needs addressed to show large north Baton Rouge market
- Has a survey been completed to show why people left Scotlandville over the years?
- Look at data from 30 years ago to identify causes of business closures, people moving, etc. Search for a root cause. Examples are the flight to Cortana Mall, Delmar Village, closing of post office and two banks and local theaters- entire community is impacted. Need to look at the

historical data and tell a story. Look at what data is saying and identify what is triggering these actions.

Crime

- Need to work with the Police Chief on addressing safety and crime issues
- Look at the retention of police captains in Scotlandville and continuity in police staffing

Additional comments

- CDC and the Office of Community Development has not been continuously funded.
- Need to address the uncleanliness of the stores in the area. Go after businesses with OSHA and the Department of Health to address the conditions of retail stores and blighted properties.
- Issue of children moving out of state rather than staying in community.
- Talk to SU history professor: I-110 highway contributed to decline of Scotlandville; Scenic 61 bypassed Scotlandville retail and services, buying power bypassed community; tax base moved away.
- Look into Code enforcement improvements