

**University Neighborhood Partnership**  
**Meeting minutes**  
**October 20, 2008**

**Members Present:**

- Institutional Representatives: Beth Rougeux (SU), Scott Blair (ESF), Win Thurlow (Upstate)
- Neighborhood Resident Representatives: Joe Russo (SEUNA-Westcott/West), Mark Strodel (Sherman Park), Barbara Humphrey (WENA-Westcott/East)
- Investor-Owners: Norm Roth (Sherman Park), Paul Walsh (SEUNA)
- Students: Tefan Drayton (SU)

**Members Absent:**

- Institutional Members: Barbara Karper (LeMoyne)
- City Representative (Fernando Ortiz)
- Neighborhood Resident Representatives: Melanie Stopyra (Outer Comstock)
- Investor-Owners: Pat Pfohl (Outer Comstock), Hugh Gregg ( WENA)
- Students: representatives from LeMoyne, ESF and Upstate Medical University

**Others Present:** Brian Moore

Brian Moore continued to lead us through a process designed to assist us to identify an operating structure that will enable us to fulfill our mission or statement of purpose. This process included identification of community assets, interpretation of our mission statement, and discussion of structure and facilitation.

Community Assets

Brian asked us to identify assets in three categories: institutions/agencies, citizen associations, and individual gifts:

- **Institutions/Agencies:** assets identified included SU, ESF, Upstate Medical University, VA, Center of Excellence, Crouse Hospital, Westcott Community Center, Ed Smith and Levy Schools, Petit Library, Cooperative Federal, and various churches, temples and one mosque.
- **Citizen Associations:** these included WENA, SEUNA, Sherman Park Association, OCNA, Thornden Park Association, TNT, Housing Visions, UNPA, SPOA, Crouse-Marshall BID, Eastside Visioning Partnership and various neighborhood watch groups.
- **Individual Gifts:** Brian described these as gifts of the head (intellectual expertise, such legal, fiscal, etc.), of the hand (trades and other skills), and of the heart (caring, compassion, truth)

This exercise helped us recognize that there are many assets in our community and most groups and categories of people have individual gifts in all three categories. Brian reminded us that we need to identify these gifts as we go along and take advantage of them when needed.

Mission

Beth read the statement of purpose from the reorganizational document of 3/19/08:

*The purpose of the University Neighborhood Partnership is to enhance the University residential community and address the dynamics of the college neighborhood by providing a process for communication and constructive action.*

Brian asked us to think about what this means, and the following list was generated:

- Quality of life
- Communication on all sides
- Mutual seeking of solutions
- Co-existence
- Treat others as you want to be treated
- Finding common ground
- Understand issues from the perspective of all stakeholders

From this list, it appeared that our mission is to develop common ground, use consensus to identify commonality, bring different perspectives to the table, and to seek common ground to identify solutions to issues.

#### Organization Structure/Facilitation

We then discussed if we need facilitation, and if we do need it, how we would go about obtaining that facilitation. We recognized that we have no resources, so if we do need facilitation, we will need to find a volunteer.

There appeared to be consensus that UNP would function better if we had outside facilitation, because for any one of us to facilitate, it would take us out of a discussion and we were at the table to represent a constituency that needed to be in the discussion.

Given that we have agreed to a need for facilitation, Brian suggested that we brainstormed people from the community who we could ask (he gave us the resume of one person to consider) and that we create a “job description” of what the facilitator would do. We suggested the following description:

- Facilitate discussion to fulfill the statement of purpose
- Understand the issues in the neighborhood
- Understand and be experienced in the consensus model of decision making
- Able/willing to devote 2-3 hours/month to facilitating

Our homework for the next meeting is to come up with one or more names of people to consider as a facilitator. We should already have made the contact and the person should have agreed to be our facilitator.

#### Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be Monday, November 17 at 5:30. It was agreed that 1509 Setnor was a nice space, but not much bigger than the Brueggers Community Room, and parking at/near Upstate is difficult. Scott offered to find a room at ESF provided he can give names at the gate and people can drive in at no charge at park.