

# NEW TOOLS TASKFORCE

## December 1, 2008

### Meeting Minutes

#### I. Welcome & Introductions

#### II. General Updates

##### a. Consultant Selection

*Wanda Gunter reported that the needs of the task force have been communicated to the City Manager and that the City has the ability to contract with MARC for facilitating services. Additionally, Jeff Kaczmarek is checking into using an existing contract with the EDC to see if there is a possibility of amending the contract to address the needs of the task force. However, a funding source has not been identified to cover contract costs. Mr. Webster mentioned a planned meeting with the Mayor and City Manager regarding the task force's needs. The community engagement committee expressed interest in hiring community organizers to address the needs of the committee.*

##### b. Other

#### III. Presentation: Economic Development & Job Creation Potential of the Overflow Control Program – Ron Coker

*Mr. Coker presented a summary of the overflow control program. The Task Force is interested in the potential economic impact of the city's Overflow Control Program. Interest centered on jobs and the time to complete educational component to ensure individuals living in distressed areas are trained to participate in the work force undertaking the projects. At task force members' request, Mr. Coker identified some of the potential jobs: construction, green vegetation, landscaping, construction and businesses involved in contracting for these types of services. He also emphasized that there may be some need for retraining for contractors to move to some of the green solutions included in the plan. Mr. Coker also identified other cities in different phases of their plan development including Atlanta, Omaha, St. Louis, Cincinnati, Louisville, Detroit, New York City, Chicago and Portland.*

*The link to the full report is below. The document is too large to attach.*

<http://www.kcmo.org/water/KCWetWeatherCityNav/images/PDFs/ocpnov2008.pdf>

#### IV. Committee Reports

##### a. Community Engagement – Spark Bookhart -- not present

*The committee wishes to hire four full-time organizers to work for six months. The organizers will assist stakeholders in identifying how the community became distressed and developing a plan of action to resolved. The organizers would*

*work in zones using two identified approaches: direct neighbor-to- neighbor contact and small community forums. These efforts are planned to ensure the community is engaged in the plan of action to create economic development in distressed areas. Task Force Chairman Ajamu Webster emphasized that the committee may be engaging up to 1,000 people.*

- b. Educational Capital – Ray Wilson -- not present

*The committee has not met. Mr. Wilson has begun gathering data.*

- c. Financial Capital – Dr. Henry Johnson

*Dr. Johnson reported that the Finance Committee met at the Negro Baseball League Museum. Discussion centered on what's possible in terms of building financial capacity. The committee identified interest areas that each member will research such as community sources, investment fund, business and entrepreneurial growth, banking, state, county and federal government. The committee also plans to review domains for financial capacity such as business growth, culture and arts, social and recreation, and real estate development.*

- d. Community Capital – Dr. Linwood Tauheed – not present (see committee report below)

*Dr. Tauheed sent out a memo with timelines on November 19, 2008. The document outlines roles and organizes around a best practice framework. The committee has not met as a whole; however, individual meetings have occurred. Dr. Tauheed recruited two new members: Dr. Dorothea Welch and Archie Williams. The committee is also identifying sources of data. To meet that end, Dr. Tauheed has met with Steve Lebofsky of the City Planning and Development Department/ City Wide Research. Dr. Tauheed emphasized integrating the work of other committees and supporting Community Engagement.*

- e. Research & Evaluation – A. Marie Young

*Ms. Young emphasized that Research and Evaluation should act as a repository for information and asked other committees to provide information gathered during their research efforts to the Research and Evaluation Committee. She is working with Dr. Tauheed to develop a website to include the information gathered from all of the committees. Ms. Young stated that centralizing data gathered will assist in developing strategies that lead to the development of the plan.*

## V. Schedule Review

*Mr. Webster briefly reviewed the schedule from completion of the committee's work discussed at the November 3, 2008 Task Force Meeting.*

## VI. Questions -- None

## VII. Adjournment

### **GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

Produce a plan for economic development in distressed communities of Kansas City that is bottoms-up with measurable outcomes for:

1. Increased population and density
2. Increased individual economic opportunities, including increasing individual income, employment and number of quality jobs.
3. Increased business activities and business profits.
4. Increased property values.
5. Safe and livable neighborhoods.