

Community Gathering Event
July 27, 2006
The Madison- CBC Luncheon

Introduction from Jeff

(Creating a different kind of partnership.) CBC, CNC and City of Covington –
Welcome- Creating a Citizen driven plan process. We want many different ideas and to continue to work on this plan. We want to continue to bring people together. We are going to have a website to keep people connected on line. To keep the communication open. Many times there are different plans created and ask people to buy into the plan. However, we are here to create the plan. We are here to drive the plan. The stewards have created the themes that we will be looking at today. You are creating the plan. No one can blame the city for this plan. This is our plan. We have to make it happen, all of us working together.

1. Think about what is possible for you personally. What possibilities come to mind in building Covington's future? What can you get involved in that is a new possibility? Make this a personal issue. How do we own that we create our own future and not wait for someone else? What crossroads are you at when you think of this process?

The Positive public perception- try to be positive no matter what- picking up the trash or make the windows look pretty- whether I want to keep participating when negativity is an overriding theme among people.

Artist are feisty people. Paint art on buildings. Self involvement. It is about the people that own their own buildings to take care of their own building. People need to take responsibility of their own things. Keep positive about the future of Covington. Hope my love spreads.

Rather than the city spending all of their money on beautification, they should reward people who beautify their properties. We are trying to change how the properties look in Covington.

Issue of connectivity came up. People mentioned major development of the library. We need to get connected as community. We must have community buy in. People need to upgrade their property to bring people here. There are real estate issues. There is a lot of connectivity and there isn't. A lot of the neighborhoods are there, but there isn't any way to truly share with the other neighborhoods. Connecting to other neighborhoods and the city is very important.

Resident of Covington, I feel that to get involved, we have to get the citizens here. Pride in ownership will bring back this city. If people don't care about their homes then no one cares or wants to come to Covington. Make their homes look nice. Mildred Rains did a great job by getting people to take care of their property. I could start a neighborhood

association, but should I do something different, maybe make a 30 year plan instead of 5 years. We are losing business to Newport and across the river.

This city has been the hot bed of crappy landlords, developments. We have gotten a good handle on code enforcement. It is backwards now. There are too many renters and not enough home owners. We are trying to get people moved here. Homeownership is the way to get people here (I am not knocking good landlords) when the tipping point is that there are more renters than homeownership then we have problems. We need to join together and do things collectively. The neighborhood collaborative is very important. The inner connectivity is very important. We cannot look at the city to make the changes. We have to make the changes ourselves. We need a good Northern Kentucky homeownership association and make the community vital.

We talked about motivation and getting people here. There are good landlords. We need to reward the good and punish the bad. We need to put mechanisms in there. The Code Enforcement needs to have teeth. We need to hit people where it hurts. We need to make them pay. I own rental properties. We go to an extra long process to make sure the renters keep the home nice. We make the choice to rent to good renters.

There is a quiet them running through, we need to empower the people to make things happen. 12th street, we are making a lot of changes. We are making changes; there are a lot of positive changes that are happening in downtown. However, when people come downtown they only see the bad part of downtown and don't see the good in the neighborhoods and that is a negative thing. Building codes are horrible and very expensive to fix. Empower the people to make regulations. Covington has been positively changing, but we need to get people down here living and caring.

2. To what extent have you waited on someone or something else to happen before you have taken action for the benefit of the community?

We had two negative things... there are renters here... many people have been working on various projects- not working to get the projects done.

This is a very proactive table. We don't wait for things to happen. We do it ourselves. Who is Ken Shirley? He gets stuff done immediately. He helped me get people out of the building I owned; bad people, drug abusers, prostitutes. He got it done.

Homeownership- I don't live in Covington but I own businesses in Covington. We need to focus on businesses. We talked about the proactive things that we have done. We have a lot of action tables.

This is relative issue. Build partnerships to act, sometimes I don't do things myself, but we have to keep reaching out. We have to keep reaching out.

We have been very active in keeping the noise down and making the changes. We built a relationship to make things happen.

Crossroads... case in point – two things have to grow together. Business, have people come and must grow our community. Appraisers are killing us.

3. What steps can you take? What can you promise to do right now? What can you commit to? Can you commit to coming to the retreats? Do you mean it?

(Everyone talked amongst themselves in their groups.)