

Attendees: Anne Lane – BuCu West, Rachel Cleaves – LiveWell Westwood, Christi Longsdorff – ULC, Eric Kornacki – Revision International, Angela Bomgaars – Extreme Community Makeover, Natacha Dana – Grandmother’s House of Herbs and Cures, Norma Brambilla, Reyna Cruz, Indira Guzman – Interpreter, Michelle Schoen – Westwood Residents Association

Visioning

1. Should WU be around in 5 years?
2. If so, provide 2-3 keywords to describe the overall purpose and/or activities of the organization

Keywords

- Connect, knowledge and people
- Unity, liberty and safety
- Unity, moving forward as residents, awareness
- Residents and organizations taking action, resident empowerment
- Bold steps, bold action
- Community engagement, opportunity, resources
- Building capacity within residents, grant giving organization (initiative funding), coordinate organizations in the community
- Ownership by the community, connections
- Community ownership, training

HOMEWORK: Look at different organizations that have evoked community change anywhere in the country where they have done this in their own way. What can we learn from them? Do they hold neighborhood meetings? Do they build buildings? What do they do for the community? Are they successful? Who can we model Westwood Unidos after?

Suggestion: Dudley neighborhood in Boston, MA – how many residents and organizations can be part of it? What did they do to make sure they were inclusive within the entire community, reversing the previous issues of racism and exclusive nature of the community.

Definition of Stakeholders

Question: Who should be involved in Westwood Unidos? What is the definition of the people who are involved? Can they live outside the community and just love it? A business owner? Property owner? Someone who visits the neighborhood for services?

- Residents, business owners, businesses, people who really support the neighborhood
- People who don’t normally have opportunities to get grants, training, etc.
- Anybody who wants to help strengthen the community and meet the ideals of the organization

- Anybody who has a vested interest in the community, anybody who can bring good information to the residents for consideration
- Anyone who puts their time, resources, heart, passion, money into the community – doesn't like the distinction of "organization" vs. "residents" – there is a difference between community-based organizations and outside organizations
- Anyone who has a connection and invests their time into the community to make it better
- Anyone who is dealing with the same issues and works within the community
- Anybody who supports the community
- Consider people's motivations and intentions
- Organizations need to ask communities what they want/need. There should be more residents at the table than organizations.

How should the grants be judged?

Original application came from Denver Foundations without revisions. Groups can hire someone to do projects, but we need three residents (or surrounding areas) to sign on to every application. Are organizations eligible? Should there be limitations on the size of organizations? Should we only include community-based organizations? Motivation should be reviewed carefully to make sure the agenda matches the Westwood Unidos agenda. Residents who sign onto a grant should be actively involved in whatever the grant is requesting/doing. Should we include some of the businesses in Westwood (cooking classes, art classes, community-based opportunities, how to start your own business, etc.)? If they partner with Westwood Unidos and are meeting a need that has been expressed by residents, should we consider the application? Westwood Unidos could be used to make connections between organizations and community members. How is this financially sustainable? Growing? Increasing capacity of residents?

We need a process ladder for grants with a ladder of accountability. What are the consequences of not doing what you said you would do? We need to have a conversation about values and what the future structure of the organization looks like. We need a vision and guiding principles before we can start considering grant applications. Pretend there's no money on the table and work out the structure first.

What is really being asked of the action committees? What are the expectations?

There are big differences in the things being requested by the committees. Some are much more expensive than others.

What is the point of the action committees? What are the actions being requested by residents? What has come out of the listening conversations by the Connectors? What are residents asking to happen to resolve the issues they have already identified? What sustainable actions are available? And what resources are available to support the action committees?

Westwood Unidos
Grant Funding Meeting
12/05/2012

In order to do visioning sessions, should we take the discussion to each committee and work on it within the groups or should we use the small leadership group to create the vision and mission statements?

How are the groups connecting to meet the needs of the greater group? Groups seem to be disconnected from each other. There are too many meetings and not enough hours in a week to participate in all of the groups. Things are too scattered. We need a big project to bring everybody together. As teams, we aren't working together to make sure that the same people aren't showing up all of the time, with no growth in any committee. We need to make more of an effort to engage each other.

15 minute break for dinner

Discuss action team governance.

Define what a resident is – is it only someone who lives here or is it someone who used to live here for a long period of time but moved or is it something else?

Suggestion: For purposes of defining “What is Westwood” – must live inside the boundaries of the neighborhood to be considered a resident. If someone is outside the neighborhood, they automatically become a stakeholder. Boundaries = Federal on the east, Sheridan on the West, Alameda on the north, Mississippi on the south. There is some concern about how this is being defined. We are going to end this conversation for tonight and move on to other discussions. We need to have a larger meeting where we bring in larger numbers of residents from the community to discuss how we define a resident plus roles and responsibilities, plus a vision and a mission statement.

g. Stipends are available to support the work of organizing the Action Team (notes, agendas, research).

Can organizations get help with the work they are doing for the Westwood Unidos? Interns? Help with basic administrative work? How can we relinquish some of those duties from the organizations who are volunteering their knowledge and time and turn it over to residents? Residents need training and knowledge before they can take it over. Co-chairs could do certain things to help organizational chairs. Take meeting minutes, create agenda, pick up food for meetings, take over projects once they've been identified, etc.

Mini-Grants

1. \$520 for dumpster – rescinded by Norma because they are having a meeting on 12/19/12 to work with the residents on four alleys to determine what would work to keep the alleys clean.
2. \$1,200 for farm field trip – rescinded by Norma because there are no farms to go to during the winter season.
3. \$630 for English/Computer classes – 6 computers are paid off (\$600). \$200 was used to purchase 2 more computers but they changed their mind. One person gave back a computer and dropped the class. So you have 3 computers in possession right now plus \$400. So needs another 3 computers (\$300) plus all of the other expenditures. If other residents want to purchase the computers but don't want to take the class, they can do that too. Call Indira for more information.
 - a. RESOLUTION: Fund for \$630 for 3 more computers and all other items needed.
4. \$1,930 for meetings – Voided by Eric Kornacki.
5. \$2,575 for classes – Voided by Eric Kornacki.
6. \$1,356 for Bike Boulevard on Knox Ct – Pay for 2 people to survey the community surrounding Knox Ct from Alameda to Kentucky.
 - a. RESOLUTION: Funded for \$1,356 and send the invoice to the City for payment.
7. \$1,216 for camera equipment for WORD – Film stories of the neighborhood. You will be doing the filming and learning how to edit, how to do interview questions, etc. Equipment would be stored at Grandmother's House of Herbs. Denver Open Media – have to rent equipment even with a membership. Can they use flip cams or something less expensive for this project? Wants to get 10 youth involved. Mimi will also lend her camera along with another group. Have other partnerships who are also contributing. DOM provides a field package with camera and accessories with light kit, etc. If DOM is free, WU would pay for the membership and camera usage training from DOM. DOM has their own grant program that should be explored.
 - a. RESOLUTION: Choose an option:
 - i. Eric Kornacki is willing to work with WORD to create a more solid proposal with his other funding option than what's in front of us tonight.
 - ii. Denver Open Media memberships
 - iii. Matching grant between Westwood Unidos and Denver Open Media
 - b. Teddy will come back to the committee with an answer to the options.
8. \$1,000 for Ceiba USA non-profit designation.
 - a. Board Members: Ron Washington from Field Foundation, Marcos Martinez – MGM, Arturo Rodriguez (Bones), Mandy Medrano – Kreative Kalpulli.
 - b. Mavis Salazar is a master herbalist.
 - c. Mission:
 - d. Yoga, Tae Kwon Do, Dance Therapy, Ear Reflexology, Reflexology, Herbal remedies.
 - e. Also opens the door for other community activities.

- f. RESOLUTION: No funding. Need to narrow their focus so they can work with CNDC to get started. Talk to David Portillo to see if they can get help to get started.
9. \$1,200 for Grandmother's House of Herbs for projector, printing and materials for classes.
 - a. RESOLUTION: Westwood Unidos will provide 6 weeks, 4 classes per week, \$20 per week = \$480. They have to give the evaluation data showing how many people came and their signup sheets and a description of the 4 classes they choose, to show they are serving the community. Grandmother's can also use the Westwood Unidos printer for marketing, etc. Westwood Unidos will also give an extra \$10 for paper.
10. \$500 for Learning Center Kickoff Event
 - a. Date chosen is January 10, 2013. They will invite the neighborhood to come to Sonia's event center to learn more about the training center and Westwood Unidos. They will have a schedule and calendar allowing people to sign up for classes, etc. The other \$50 will be removed from the budget and LWW will take care of it because it's for a broken speaker from Norma's event. This will be open to all of the committees.
 - b. RESOLUTION: Approved for \$500.
11. \$3,000 and \$1,460 for trip to Cleveland to learn more about cooperatives
 - a. Learn more about starting businesses. Garden cooperative. Laundry cooperative. In all of these, the businesses are owned by the employees. January 14-16, 2013. Will meet with University and coops in Cleveland. How do we determine who is going? Identify people who have already been working on bringing business to the community. Looks like a very interesting learning opportunity. Rachel would like to go but will use LWW money, not Westwood Unidos money. How would we handle interpretation for Spanish speakers? Either send Indira or find an interpreter in Cleveland – either of these costs would have to be added to the grant at some point.
 - b. RESOLUTION: \$4,460 approved. Need to send out criteria for participants if there are more than 4 who want to participate.
12. \$1,116.75 for RNO
 - a. Remove \$200 for food. Turn in receipts for up to \$50 for food for each meeting instead.
 - b. Remove \$200 for translator and just use her as needed and she will turn in receipts to Westwood Unidos for payment.
 - c. RESOLUTION: \$378 for postcards. \$20 for paper for printing. \$30 for business cards. \$428 total approved.