



Garfield Park Connector

*The Connector is a publication of GPNA
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Building a better community through collaboration, information and services...

December 2013

Garfield Park Neighborhoods Association

GPNA Celebrates 40 Years And Looks Ahead

Garfield Park Neighborhoods Association began 40 years ago when a group of neighbors came together to oppose the City's plans to develop Burton Woods (now Garfield Park Nature Center) into residential lots. Forty years later, GPNA's mission statement echoes those neighbors' goals- "GPNA exists to preserve and improve the unique human and physical characteristics of the neighborhood through resident involvement."

GPNA supports neighbors in their efforts to develop and maintain their neighborhood. In 2013 that support has led to numerous block parties throughout the neighborhood, and to volunteers from GE painting the Garfield Park Lodge and volunteers from Steelcase painting benches in Garfield Park. In the Nature Center it has meant tree planting with the help of the Friends of GR Parks and tree trimming thanks to Bartlett Tree Service. GPNA has also led neighborhood events, including Neighborhood Cleanup Day and the Arts and Crafts Fair.

GPNA staff members Fran and Esther have continued their tremendous work in bringing neighbors and neighborhood organizations together. They have worked with Brookside Elementary, Hope Academy, and Grand Rapids Ellington Academy on School Safety Plans, provided training in crime prevention and home safety, and participated in the Community School Leadership teams at Burton Middle/Elementary and Alger Middle Schools. They actively participate in a Court Watch project to ensure that a resident who was arrested for distributing drugs from home does not return to the neighborhood. They have led training sessions for block captains and led targeted flyer campaigns to address increased crime activity. They've done all this and more on reduced hours.

2014 brings several big projects to the neighborhood that will directly affect the physical and human characteristics of our neighborhood. The completion of the Silver Line rapid bus line will bring new business and housing developments, and the Parks Millage will bring new investment and updates to our neighborhood parks. Please read the articles about the Area Specific Plan and the Parks Millage to learn how GPNA would like to be involved in these projects, and how you can be involved in determining the future of the neighborhood.

GPNA Annual Meeting

**You are invited to the
Garfield Park Neighborhoods
Association Annual Meeting
6:00 pm – 7:30 pm
Thursday, January 9, 2014
at the Kroc Center,
Fireside Room**

Come hear about the work your neighborhood association has completed in 2013 and its plans for 2014. Meet the GPNA staff, local beat policemen, city councilmen, and the GPNA board. Share your ideas and concerns. Volunteer to help our membership drive, help with marketing and advertising, or write articles for the newsletter.

**GPNA would like to
THANK GE Aviation and
Steelcase for their
volunteer work in
Garfield Park and
Bartlett Tree Service for
their work in the
Garfield Nature Center!**

Fran & Esther Updates

- Dumpster Day – July 2013 – over 250 drove thru
- Neighborhood Property Inspections – over 1,000 this year
- Leadership In Service Training and other information sharing
- Block Party Coordination Assistance
- Reduction in burglaries as result of neighborhood awareness
- Targeted Neighborhood flyerling
- Block Captain recruitment and preparation
- Neighborhood Night Out Helmet Safety Activity
- Regular Communication with Community Officers
- Established Collaboration with Our Kitchen Table
- Provide training to Davis Memorial Church Family Leadership Initiative
- Coordinate Block Club Meetings
- Graffiti remediation
- Coordination of block and alley clean up projects
- Assisted on the September Art & Craft Fair
- Collaboration with Seeds of Promise through their Housing Impact Team

Garfield Park Area Specific Plan

If you've driven down Division Avenue this year you've undoubtedly seen the steady progress of construction of the Rapid Silver Line bus stations. We expect to see a lot more construction along the bus route in the upcoming months and years. Example after example across the country shows that development money fills in along the corridor of a new rapid bus line. In fact, development has already started, and Dwelling Place's senior housing project at 100 Burton will soon begin.

As a neighborhood, we will be impacted by the development of the Division corridor, and we don't want to be caught off guard. It's important to clearly communicate to the City Planning Commission what sort of development we want in our neighborhood. There are multiple ways to do this—one would be to continually monitor proposals in front of the commission and mobilize support or opposition on a case-by-case basis.

Another option, which has been used by several neighborhoods throughout the city, is to develop an Area Specific Plan and present it for approval by the planning commission. (See some examples here: <http://grcity.us/design-and-development-services/Planning-Department/Pages/Master-Plan.aspx>) This process would incorporate our neighborhood's preferences into the Grand Rapids Master Plan. Then, future development proposals in the neighborhood would be evaluated against our plan.

Garfield Park Neighborhoods Association and Davis Memorial Church would like to begin the process of developing an Area Specific Plan for the Division/Burton area. We want to assemble neighborhood residents, businesses, churches, organizations and schools and generate a plan that captures the collective vision for the neighborhood.

This process is rather long and will require a lot of work and money. We will be writing grants for a majority of the funds, and we need to collect some information to help write better grant applications. We also need to determine the scope of the project to better ensure its success.

This is where you come in. We'd like to hold a brainstorming session with as many stakeholders as possible during a kickoff town hall meeting at the Garfield Park Gym in mid-January.

We are seeking your input on the following:

- 1) How will the Silver Line affect our neighborhood? How will it impact the residents, businesses, schools, and churches? What are the potential positives and negatives, and how do we want to respond to the changes?
- 2) What area should be targeted for this planning effort? A smaller area means a smaller amount of work for the project.
- 3) Who are the stakeholders in this effort? We know this will include GPNA, Davis Memorial, LINC, Seeds of Promise, Hope Academy, the Kroc Center, and the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. We need a list of people who want to participate in discussions, and also a list of people who want to help in doing the data collection and writing (i.e. the work).
- 4) Finally, how is the project going to be managed? Is GPNA going to do it, another organization, a hired project manager, citizen steering committee, or something else? What structure do we need in place to ensure that we succeed?

This is just the start of the process. Our initial goal is to have the planning activity started mid-2014. There is a lot of work to do between now and then -will you help? If so, please sign up for our email list at our website or follow us on Facebook (Garfield Park Neighborhoods Association) or contact me at mscholten@gpnagr.org.

Join our online
community
www.gpnagr.org

On Facebook: GPNA GR



MEET JAKE

Jacob Konyndyk is now a senior at Grand Rapids Christian High school and lives in the Garfield Park Area. He has been a regular volunteer for GPNA for the past two years. Jacob comes into the offices once or twice every week to review our crime reports from GRPD and assist in identifying trends and hot spots. His consistent and committed involvement to his task has made it possible for GPNA to better track criminal activity and provide alerts to our neighbors. He has a lot of experience in volunteering and this experience at GPNA fits in well with his interest in Community Service. Jake is an avid biker. He is looking forward to his senior trip to Italy in the spring 2014. Jake is interested in macro economics and history. He hopes to attend Calvin College to study Economics. Jacob has a unique sense of humor that brings a level of insanity to his data gathering on criminal activity in the GPNA area.

Our GPNA Neighborhood

We've got a friend from the Dominican Republic who's been staying with us for the last 3 weeks, and he just loves our neighborhood. One day a neighbor from one side will knock on the door asking to borrow something, and the next day the neighbor from the other side of the house will show up with a plate of baked goods. One or two Saturdays ago we were even served plates of still hot apple cobbler made from the tree in our neighbor's back yard! Our guest reminded us that this is truly a great place to live.

Chances are that your neighborhood is a lot like ours. The longer you live there the better you get to know your neighbors and the more you rely on them. When neighborhoods are at their best, neighbors feel like family.

The Garfield Park Neighborhoods Association wants to foster those kinds of neighborhood relationships. We want to get after problems that challenge our neighborhoods (crime, unresponsive landlords, abandoned and neglected properties) and we want to promote and celebrate the things that make this such a great place to live (great neighborhood relationships, block parties, good communication and access to local programs and services). But in order to do that we really need your help. Our staff and our board are trying to keep the services provided by GPNA going, but we're really stretched right now. Below are some of the ways that you might be able to help us help our neighborhoods stay safe and strong.

- **Money.** There, we said it. Again. Whether it's by maintaining your annual membership with GPNA, or by making an additional contribution, we could really use your help. Our staff, Esther Reyes and Fran Dalton, continue to live with fewer hours and low pay and we'd love to see them be better compensated for all that they do for us. Your help would be both tax deductible, and much appreciated!
- **Time.** Good neighboring always takes time. At GPNA we're looking for more block captains who can spend more time improving the quality of communication on your block. We can also use more board members (people move away or are faced with other commitments so we're always recruiting). Not only do we need more board members, but we could also use volunteers for specific tasks like the fall Arts and Crafts Show, or the GPNA Newsletter. Give Esther or Fran a call and they'll be able to direct you to the appropriate people for your area of interest.
- **Care.** Whether you're able to contribute or help GPNA or not, we do hope that you'll continue to invest in your immediate neighborhood. Take the time to get to know your neighbors and have their phone numbers or e-mail addresses handy should you need to contact them.

In case no one has reminded you lately, this really is a great place to live! Help us all keep it that way!

Steve De Vries, GPNA Board Secretary

Things to know about health insurance enrollment

There's a lot to know about "ObamaCare" or the Affordable Care Act which will give you health care coverage through low-cost or free health insurance programs. Here is some helpful information to help get you started.

Who is this for? Under the new law everyone must have health coverage or an exemption to health coverage, so this law will affect people in different ways.

If you have health coverage you like, you can keep it, and children under age 26 can stay on a parent's health insurance plan. Or you can explore Marketplace plans, but you may not qualify for as many discounts if your current coverage is considered affordable and meets the minimum standards.

If you don't have coverage, you can use the new Health Insurance Marketplace to buy a private insurance plan. Medicare isn't part of the Marketplace. If you have Medicare, keep it. Also, if you or your children have Medicaid you will continue to have Medicaid as long as you qualify.

What are the benefits? Pre-existing conditions are covered, so are 10 other essential services that include preventive services, doctor's visits, maternity care, prescription drugs, emergency room visits and more. Depending on your family size and income, you may get lower costs on monthly premiums and out-of-pocket costs. Also, Michigan is expanding Medicaid starting in April 2014 to cover even more people.

What happens if I do nothing? If you don't have coverage in 2014 you'll have to pay a fee. In 2014 it's \$95 per adult (\$47.50 per child) or 1% of income, whichever is higher. The family maximum is \$285.

So what is the Marketplace? The Health Insurance Marketplace is like a "one stop shop" online, where people can go to buy health insurance that fits their needs. In the marketplace you will be able to:

- Apply for health insurance
- Compare health insurance plans
- Find out what discounts on health insurance you can receive
- Buy a health insurance plan for you and/or your family.

Marketplace open enrollment starts October 1, 2013. It closes March 31, 2014. You can go to www.healthcare.gov to start the enrollment process.

What if I need help? Cherry Street Health Services has many people available to help you understand these changes and to help you through this process. You can take one of the three following steps to start getting signed up for health insurance:

1. Call the toll-free number (866) 299-1339
2. Email AffordableCare@cherryhealth.com
3. Come in to:
 - Heart of the City Health Center, 100 Cherry St., Grand Rapids
 - Cherry Street Health Center, 550 Cherry St., Grand Rapids
 - Westside Health Center, 669 Stocking Ave. NW, Grand Rapids

ALLEY SAFETY PROJECT

Garfield Park Neighborhood Association is kicking off an Alley Safety Project. The goal of this project is to number and properly identify nearly 500 properties that face an alley in the GPNA area. GPNA will make the numbers available to you for placement on your alleyway garages for free. The reason that this is so important is, if a crime is committed in the back of our property or if a criminal uses our property as an access to an alley, the police may not be able to identify the correct location unless your address is visible. The same is true in cases of fire or medical emergencies. The ability to find the right location quickly can make a difference. You should have your address permanently marked on the back of your property, on the gate, the fence or the garage. Become part of this Alley Safety Project. Contact Fran or Esther to get you set of identification numbers for your garage. **They are free and available to all GPNA residents with property along an alleyway.** Call the office and make arrangements to get your free reflective numbers for placement on your property.

Other Alley Safety Tips are:

- Secure your back door and gate
- Secure your garage
- Light your alley and back yard
- Don't use alleys as alternatives to streets
- Keep your alley clean
- Report all suspicious activity to the police

Volunteer Income Tax Preparation Site

In tough times everyone is looking for ways to make life a little easier. With the Earned Income Tax Credit, working families are eligible for tax reimbursements of up to \$6,044. Tax clients often spend these tax refunds locally for basic necessities such as food and clothing, home and car repairs, or medical treatment. A partnership has been formed between Garfield Park Neighborhood Association and the Alger Heights Collaborative. The partnership will bring a Kent County Tax Credit Coalition Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) site to the Garfield Park and Alger Heights neighborhoods to help residents file for the Earned Income Tax Credit. Free tax preparation services will be offered to low - moderate income earners. We are currently seeking volunteers to fulfill one evening per week for a 10-week commitment. The VITA site will be open on Thursday evenings 6-9pm, from February to April at the Garfield Park Lodge. The volunteer requirements are: good people skills, computer literacy, and completion of one eight-hour training session. Training sessions are free and provided by the Kent County Tax Credit Coalition. Upon completion of the training, volunteers may have skills needed by tax preparation companies.

We are looking for volunteers in the following areas:

Greeter/Screeners / Responsibilities:

- Welcome tax filers
- Ensure that tax filers have all the information needed to complete their tax returns
- Ensure that clients complete IRS intake sheet

Tax Preparer / Responsibilities:

- Assist low to moderate income wage earners with completing their tax returns

Quality Reviewer/Transmitter / Responsibilities:

- Follow a check list to review tax returns after the return is prepared to ensure accuracy
- Submit tax returns electronically to the IRS
- Help trouble shoot returns that are rejected by the IRS

Training dates (additional training available on-line):

Saturday, January 11th and 18th, 9am – 5pm OR Monday thru Thursday, January 13th – 16th, 6-9pm.

Training will take place at the United Way Center, 118 Commerce Ave SW Please contact Fran Dalton of the Garfield Park Neighborhood Association at 616-241-2443 or email at fdalton@gpnagr.org with questions or to sign up.

In the 40 years since GPNA's founding, we have used the same local bank for all 40 years -5/3. In honor of this long-term commitment to the neighborhood, 5/3 is matching all resident donations to GPNA, up to a total of \$1,000, for the rest of the year. GPNA thanks 5/3 for their support!

GPNA would like to thank our many resident members. Your support is greatly appreciated. GPNA would also like to thank and acknowledge our business sponsors. They are committed to our neighborhood, and we encourage you to support them with your business. Please view our website for their contact information.

Platinum Sponsors

5/3 Bank

Gold Sponsors

Pioneer Construction

Bronze Sponsors

Alger Hardware & Rental

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GPNA Staff

Esther Reyes

SW Neighborhood Organizer

Fran Dalton

SE Neighborhood Organizer

*Thank
You!*

Board Advisors

Larry Dengerink

Tom Reynolds

Jesús M. Solis

Emily Johnson



Meet Burton Middle School Principal: Dr. Steve Beauclair!

Mid September I had the opportunity to meet Dr. Beauclair at his office and he was more than happy to share his vision for Burton Middle School. "I belong here, I choose to learn, I will succeed" are the words every student knows and are reminded daily while they walk the halls to their classes. The school logo is a Lion, with the an added tag

line of ROARS, which stands for Respectful, Orderly, Appropriate, Responsible and Safe. Dr. Beauclair's entire building is focused on mathematics and to reinforce this, he begins the school day with announcements and quotes by Chris Waring "The Extraordinary Story of Math" book. As an added strategy, he's challenges student to join teams and play a "Jeopardy" type game where students are rewarded gifts at the end of the day and week if they get the answers correct. Dr. Beauclair was a faculty at Aquinas College & GRCC, he also had experience teaching AP high school classes and worked with students at the Academia de Bautista in Puerto Rico. He has a master's degree in Spanish and learned most of his Spanish in the Dominican Republic. Dr. Beauclair envisions every student at Burton Middle becoming a scholar, who will aspire to graduate from High School and advance to a college and university. He identifies students by their graduation year, rather than 6th, 7th and 8th graders. Due to re-districting from the district, students who previously attended Westwood are now coming to Burton and as their logo states, they now "belong here" and will become the academic scholars they need to be in order to succeed. When asked how the community can help Burton Middle, he stated that due to the district now requiring all students to dress in uniform, some parents are finding it challenging getting the required dress code and therefore request that if anyone could donate gently used red and black polo shirts and black or kaki bottoms of any size to help support parents of the school.

Submitted by Jesús M. Solis, Alger Union Neighbor

PARIS BLOCK PARTY

On September 21 Ludie Weddle, Block Captain, organized a fabulous celebration for the neighbors of the 1800 block of Paris SE. This event included a huge potluck from all the neighbors. There must have been over five tables of food prepared and brought by all the neighbors. Ludie solicited contributions so that each child had a take away gift to help them begin the new school year. We had a DJ and there was dancing in the street!! The kids loved the Bounce House and the adults loved the fellowship. In all there were over 125 attendees at this Block Party. Good job Ludie!! We had a blast. Can't wait till next year.

What does the Parks Millage mean for our neighborhood?

The passing of the parks millage is a very exciting event for our city. It demonstrated that Grand Rapids citizens strongly support our parks. The millage adds approximately 28 million dollars to the parks budget over the next 7 years. This fund will be used to catch up with deferred maintenance and to make capital investments that the city has been unable to make. The parks will receive the first infusion of millage money in July 2014.

The first step in that process is to hire a new Parks Director in early 2014. The director will be in charge of parks, cemeteries, forestry, and the golf course. In the interim, city staff has been working with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to determine maintenance priorities for the short term, and to develop a citizen engagement process to ensure that the millage is invested wisely and appropriately.

GPNA will help lead the engagement process for our neighborhood. One of the early investments we expect to see will be the installation of a splash pad in Garfield Park to replace the wading pool. We anticipate hosting a series of town hall meetings throughout 2014 to discuss the neighborhood's priorities for our parks. If you are passionate about our parks and interested in leading the effort please contact us.

**Thank You for
supporting our parks!**
**¡Gracias por apoyar a
nuestros parques!**

Parque de Garfield en Español

GPNA Celebra 40 Años Y Considera El Futuro

Garfield Park Neighborhoods Association (GPNA) comenzó hace 40 años cuando un grupo de vecinos se reunieron para oponerse a los planes de la Ciudad para desarrollar Burton Woods (ahora Garfield Park Nature Center) en lotes residenciales. Cuarenta años más tarde, la misión de GPNA sigue con los mismos objetivos de aquellos vecinos: GPNA existe para preservar y mejorar las características de nuestros vecindarios por medio de la participación de los vecinos.

GPNA apoya a los vecinos en sus esfuerzos para desarrollar y mantener su vecindario. En 2013 ese apoyo ha dado lugar a numerosas fiestas de calle en todo el vecindario. Además, GPNA solicitó y organizó un grupo voluntarios de GE para pintar el Lodge y otro grupo de Steelcase para pintar los bancos en el parque. En el centro de la naturaleza GPNA ha ayudado con la plantación de árboles, cooperando con los Amigos del GR Parques. GPNA también ha conducido eventos vecindario, incluyendo el Día de Limpieza (Dumpster Day) y la Feria de Artes y Oficios.

Fran y Esther trabajan para GPNA y han continuado su tremendo trabajo en conectar vecinos con organizaciones vecinales. Ellas han trabajado con Brookside Elementary, Hope Academy y Grand Rapids Ellington Academy sobre Planes de Seguridad Escolar, ofreciendo capacitación en la prevención de la delincuencia y la seguridad en el hogar, y han participado en los equipos de liderazgo en Burton Elementary - Middle School y Alger Middle School. Participan activamente en un proyecto de la Corte para asegurarse de que un residente que fue arrestado por distribuir drogas desde casa no regresa a la vecindad. Han llevado las sesiones de entrenamiento para capitanes de cuadra y han conducido campañas para hacer frente a la delincuencia. Han hecho todo esto y más en un horario reducido.

2014 trae varios proyectos grandes para el vecindario que afectará directamente a las características físicas y humanas de nuestro vecindario. La finalización de la línea de autobuses rápidos Silver Line traerá nuevos desarrollos comerciales y de vivienda, y el Park Millage traerá nuevas inversiones y cambios a nuestros parques. Por favor, lea los artículos sobre el Plan de Área Específica y el Park Millage para aprender cómo a GPNA le gustaría estar involucrado en estos proyectos, y también cómo usted puede participar en la determinación del futuro del vecindario.

¿Qué significa el “Park Millage” para nuestro vecindario?

La aprobación del Park Millage es un evento muy emocionante para nuestra ciudad. Se demostró que los ciudadanos de Grand Rapids apoyan firmemente nuestros parques. El amillaramiento agrega aproximadamente 28 millones de dólares para el presupuesto de los parques en los próximos 7 años. Este fondo se utilizará para ponerse al día con el mantenimiento diferido y para hacer inversiones de capital que la ciudad no ha sido capaz de hacer. Los parques recibirán la primera infusión de dinero amillaramiento en julio de 2014. El primer paso en ese proceso es contratar a un nuevo Director de Parques a principios de 2014. El director será el encargado de los parques, cementerios, la silvicultura y el campo de golf. Mientras tanto, personal de la ciudad ha estado trabajando con el Consejo Asesor de Recreación y Parques para determinar las prioridades de mantenimiento para el corto plazo, y para desarrollar un proceso de participación ciudadana para garantizar que el dinero sea invertido con prudencia y de manera apropiada. GPNA ayudará a guiar el proceso de participación para nuestro vecindario. Una de las primeras inversiones que esperamos ver será la instalación de una plataforma de splash pad en Garfield Park para reemplazar a la piscina infantil. Anticipamos una serie de reuniones al estilo “town hall” a lo largo de 2014 para discutir las prioridades del vecindario para nuestros parques. Si es un apasionado de nuestros parques y está interesado en dirigir el esfuerzo, por favor póngase en contacto con nosotros.

Logros en el 2013 Fran y Esther

Recogido de Basura(Dumpster Day) sobre 250 vecinos usaron de esta facilidad (Julio)

Inspecciones de Violación a los Códigos de la Ciudad en el Vecindario más de 1,000

Entrenamiento de Liderazgo e información compartida a vecinos

Coordinación y asistencia en el desarrollo de Fiestas de Bloques

Alertas sobre criminalidad o información por medio de flyers y Facebook

Preparación y reclutamiento de nuevos líderes de bloque

Entrega de Helmets(casco) para protección en el uso de bicicletas en la Noche de Vecinos (National Night Out)

Se estableció Colaboración con Our Kitchen Table

Entrenamiento en la Iglesia Davis Memorial para una iniciativa Familiar

Limpieza de Grafiti/rayado con grupo de Voluntarios

Limpieza de Alleys/callejones con grupo de Voluntarios

Ayuda en el desarrollo de nuestra mayor recaudación de Fondos-Arts and Craft Fair - Septiembre 2013

Colaboración al Grupo de Promesas de Semillas (Seeds of Promise) a través de Impacto de Vivienda

Colaboración con Red Cross en la instalación y monitoreo de Detectores de Humo en la Comunidad

Comunicación con el Cuerpo de Policías de nuestra Comunidad en la Prevención de Crimen y quejas de nuestros vecinos.

Garfield Park - Plan Específico del Área

Si usted ha pasado por la Division Avenue este año sin duda usted ha visto el progreso continuo de la construcción de las estaciones de autobús rápido, Silver Line. Esperamos ver mucho más de la construcción a lo largo de la ruta en los próximos meses y años. Ejemplo tras ejemplo en todo el país muestra que el dinero gastado en el desarrollo de estas rutas provee grandes beneficios para los vecindarios que las contienen. De hecho, el desarrollo ya ha comenzado, y el proyecto de viviendas para personas mayores en el número 100 de la Burton pronto comenzará.

Como un vecindario, que seremos afectados por el desarrollo del corredor de la División, y nosotros no queremos que todo esto suceda sin nuestra participación. Es importante comunicar claramente a la Comisión de Planificación Urbana de qué tipo de desarrollo queremos en nuestro vecindario. Hay varias maneras de hacer esto - uno sería monitorear constantemente las propuestas frente a la comisión y movilizar el apoyo o la oposición caso por caso. Otra opción, que ha sido utilizado por varios vecindarios en toda la ciudad, es el desarrollo de un Plan Específico de Área y presentarlo para su aprobación por la Comisión de Planificación. (Vea algunos ejemplos aquí: <http://grcity.us/design-and-development-services/Planning-Department/Pages/Master-Plan.aspx>) Este proceso incorporaría las preferencias de nuestro vecindario en el Master Plan de Grand Rapids. A continuación, las propuestas de desarrollo futuro en el vecindario serían evaluados utilizando nuestro plan.

A GPNA y a Davis Memorial Church les gustaría empezar el proceso de desarrollar un Plan Específico de Área para el área de División / Burton. Queremos reunir los vecinos del vecindario, empresas, iglesias, organizaciones y escuelas y generar un plan que captura la visión colectiva para el barrio. Este proceso es bastante largo y requerirá mucho trabajo y dinero. Vamos a solicitar unas subvenciones para la mayoría de los fondos, y necesitamos recoger información para ayudar a escribir mejor las solicitudes de subvención. También tenemos que determinar el alcance del proyecto para asegurar mejor su éxito. Aquí es donde entra usted. Nos gustaría realizar una sesión de "lluvia de ideas" con el mayor número posible de personas interesadas durante una reunión inicial en Garfield Park Gym a mediados de enero .

Estamos buscando sus ideas en lo siguiente:

- 1) ¿Cómo afectará el Silver Line a nuestro vecindario? ¿Cómo afectará a los residentes empresas, escuelas e iglesias? ¿Cuáles son los aspectos positivos y negativos, y cómo queremos responder a los cambios?
- 2) ¿En qué área debe enfocarse para este esfuerzo de planificación? Un área más pequeña significa una menor cantidad de trabajo para el proyecto.
- 3) ¿Quiénes son los interesados en este esfuerzo? Sabemos que esto incluirá GPNA , Davis Memorial , LINC , Seeds of Promise, Hope Academy, el Centro Kroc , y la Cámara de Comercio Hispana. Queremos una lista de personas que quieran participar en las discusiones , y también una lista de personas que quieren ayudar en hacer la recolección de datos y la escritura (es decir, el trabajo).
- 4) Por último, varias preguntas: ¿Cómo se va a gestionar o manejar el proyecto? ¿Será GPNA que va a hacerlo, u otra organización, un gerente contratado del proyecto, un comité de dirección ciudadano, o algo diferente? ¿Qué estructura necesitaremos para asegurar que tengamos éxito?

Esto es sólo el comienzo del proceso. Nuestro objetivo inicial es tener la actividad de planificación ya comenzada a mediados de 2014. Hay mucho trabajo que hacer entre ahora y entonces. ¿Puede usted ayudar? Si puede, favor de añadir su dirección electrónica a nuestra lista de correo electrónico en nuestra página web, o siganos en Facebook (Garfield Park Neighborhoods Association) o póngase en contacto conmigo en mscholten@gpnagr.org.