

**Clackamas Heights Redevelopment
Resident Working Group #1
December 8, 2009 - Resident Services**

Attendance: (16) Clackamas Heights residents participated in the focus group discussion on resident services. Jane Brown, HACC Resident Services Coordinator facilitated the discussion with Mary Bradshaw, HACC Development Project Manager, recording the responses.

FOCUS GROUP QUESTIONS WITH GROUP RESPONSES

1. What is your definition of “community” and what factors contribute to a positive “sense of community”?

DEFINITION OF COMMUNITY

- *Feeling safe/ not getting robbed*
- *Access to groceries*
- *Different ages – all ages “Good for everyone to be with other people not like themselves. Children, single folks, married people, families, elderly.”*
- *Income diversity – “Children see other types of families than their own.”*
- *Better screening on residents to screen out people with criminal activity or addiction issues.*
- *Re-screening on a regular basis to catch new things.*

SENSE OF COMMUNITY

- *Security – Comfortable walking the streets.*
- *Friendly interaction with your neighbors*
- *Recognize and know one another*
- *Community gatherings and ‘get togethers’ so neighbors can get to know each and interact*
- *Community center – place to share skills, have classes, games*
- *Community garden – it has helped to build relationships neighbor to neighbor and has become the center of the community*
- *Private personal space with fenced yards and secure back porches*

PET ISSUE – Concern about stray cats and dogs. Need to address resident’s pets as well.

2. One part of a strong and viable community is the services and amenities. Clackamas Heights residents identified the following services & amenities out of a list of almost (40) suggestions as being of the highest need in the new community:

Adult & Elderly Activities
Community Center
Fitness Center
Grocery Store
Health Care Center

Job Placement
Library
Small retail – drug store, bank, etc.
Playgrounds and Open Space
Sports and Recreation Activities
Youth Activities
Youth After School Programs

Do you agree? What else do you feel is most needed in the new community?

Everyone agreed that the above services were needed plus the following:

- *Counseling services for children and adults*
- *Social Security office on site a few days a week*
- *Photocopying and fax services*
- *Transportation – bus service!!!*
- *Transportation to grocery stores and services.*
- *Transportation after 6:00pm*
- *Cable & Internet access for everyone on site*

3. Describe the programs and activities you and members of your household currently attend?

Did not have a lot of the focus group participants using the HACC provided services. A few did use the follow: Family Club, Gleaners

BARRIERS:

- *Residents not aware of activities,*
- *Perception that you had to attend OC schools to be eligible for the after school programs,*
- *Time of day, day of the week conflicts.*

4. What additional types of activities and programs would you like to have available – sports, recreation, educational, etc.?

Youth –

- *Dances for the teenagers,*
- *Movie nights,*
- *Community based activities like community clean-ups, yard work, help for elderly,*
- *Swimming pool,*
- *Skate park,*
- *Classes like crafts and mechanics,*
- *Organized sports,*
- *YMCA come on site to coordinate sports, mentoring, etc.,*
- *Computer access and classes,*
- *Community lunch program*
- *Music programs/classes*

SURVEY THE YOUTH SOMEHOW TO SEE WHAT THEY REALLY WANT TO DO.

Families & Adults –

- Community Yard Sale
- Many of the other things listed for youth and elderly apply to adults and families too.

Elderly –

- *Social activities,*
- *Connect with the Oregon City Senior Center for activities,*
- *Classes like crafts and canning,*
- *Games – BINGO,*
- *Tax service.*

HACC could help by providing space for these activities or coordinating the service. HACC could also provide supplies for the games and small prizes.

Disabled -

- *Home based business opportunities including training and set-up assistance.*

Class and activity ideas: sewing, canning, crochet/knitting, swimming, book club, cooking, recipe exchange, scrapbooking, ceramics, collecting, art/drawing/design.

5. When would you like the activities and programs to be offered?

- *Elderly are best during the day around 11:00am OR in the evening after 7:00pm.*
- *Children are best on weekends when they are home.*
- *Sunday and Monday are NOT good days.*
- *Beginning of the month NOT good.*
- *End of the month better.*

6. What are the barriers to participating in activities?

- *Transportation*
- *Health reasons*
- *Schedule*
- *Language*
- *Cost of outside activities*
- *Location of blue building (it is on the edge of the property and people don't feel safe walking there after dark or letting their children go there alone.)*

7. Describe what type of play areas and open space you would like to see.

For the play areas, what age groups would use it? For the open space, what types of activities would be going on?

- *Play area for toddlers and small children*
- *Double basketball court for older children*

- *Off-leash pet area*
- *Biking and walking paths – like the idea of a dedicated walking path. Mentioned the Warner-Milne park and the path they have around the play area.*

8. What would you like to see in a Community Center at Clackamas Heights?

- *Centrally located- surrounded by the housing so it is more welcoming (see barriers in #6)*
- *Indoor sports court*
- *Roller rink*
- *Game room*
- *Ping Pong Table*
- *Sauna*
- *ESL classes*
- *Class room space*
- *Exercise room*
- *Computer lab*
- *Kitchen*
- *Snack bar*
- *Library / reading space*
- *Rental space for parties*
- *Outdoor patio / covered space with BBQ*
- *Movie / TV room*
- *Accessible to all residents*

9. Describe the type of job placement support you need.

- *Resume assistance*
- *College preparation*
- *Job Training*
- *Home based business opportunities (families with small children, elderly, disabled)*
- *Jobs for disabled people*

10. What are the barriers to finding a job?

- *Economy*
- *Childcare (HACC provide on-site childcare)*
- *Transportation – costs, access, \$ to maintain a car*
- *Education*
- *Job experience – how to get on the job training so they can get a job*

Communication Feedback: Residents like the message boards and getting the mailings. Flyers left at the doors seem inconsistent since they seem to blow away. Like the idea of emails.