Attendance:
Sandi Brown, Fairfax Neighborhood
Suzanne Cunningham, Hearts & Hands of Indiana
Tom Glass, 500 View
Sarah Glass, 500 View
John Hageman, Hearts and Hands of Indiana
Crystal Hill, Mt. Jackson Neighborhood Assoc.
Martha Judkins, Fairfax
Tim Koehl, Haughville
Shanna Martin, MCCOY
Trish McQueen, 500 View
Mitzi Miner, Fairfax
William Palmes, Kings & Priests Ministry
Kathy Parker, 500 View
Sally Root, Fairfax Neighborhood
Susan Scott, Wayne Twp. Trustee’s Office
Florence Strain, Haughville
Jeffrey Thomas, Kings & Priests Ministry
Phil Votaw, WCDC

Staff:
Alice Gatewood
Keith Holdsworth
Betty Smith-Beecher

Summary:
The meeting began with a review of the results of a prioritization exercise done at the kick-off meeting. The results for neighborhood and housing issues showed a strong concern for getting vacant and abandoned housing back into livable condition and occupied.

Based on the prioritization, a goal was set to “transform substandard, vacant and abandoned houses and vacant lots into positive contributors to the neighborhood.”

The recommendations of 1994 plan were distributed and the 1994 target areas for housing rehabilitation were presented. It was noted that three of the four target areas now show low rates of housing vacancy and high rates of homeownership. The fourth area was one where it was difficult to acquire a sufficient number of properties for rehabilitation.
Maps were presented that showed current rates of home ownership vs. rental properties vs. unoccupied residences. Numerous blocks were identified as having 25% or more of the residences vacant. Another map showed blocks with high rates of home-ownership.

Based on the information on the maps, six target areas for home rehabilitation were proposed. These areas exhibit some combination of:

- high vacancy rates; with
- high homeownership rates and/or adjacency to areas with high homeownership rates;
- nearby amenities;
- high visibility.

No amendments to the target areas were offered. These areas will be studied further before they are confirmed in the plan.

A map was presented showing areas with a combination of a high number of vacant residential structures and a high number of vacant lots. These areas will be studied further for possible change in land use. Possible changes could be multi-family residential uses or some type of job-generating use.

Based on comments made in the meeting, staff will prepare a comparison of sidewalks and residential vacancy.

Concerns were expressed over the condition of alleys, condition of sidewalks, and availability of code enforcement inspectors in the evenings and on weekends.

In response to a question, an overview of the Unsafe Building process was given.

An interest in preserving the architectural and cultural heritage of the area was also expressed. Some explanation of historic districts was given. A concern was expressed that projects using federal money in state-declared historic districts can be slowed by paperwork.

Participants were asked about their preferences for meeting times. No preference was given for time of day, but Mondays were mildly preferred for meeting days.