**Eastside Grassroots Coalition**

**January 19th, 2017 Community Meeting Minutes**

6:15-6:40pm sign-in and handing out of pizza and drinks

6:40-6:55pm Welcome and Introduction by Gary

Horton and Sr. Michele Schroeck

* Why Buffalo Rd. Community Vision? Why now?
  + We see a need
  + Erie Refocused Comprehensive Plan
  + focus on downtown and surrounding neighborhoods
  + Strong Community Agency Support
  + Erie Neighborhoods we can learn from

6:55-7:10pm Setting the context: explanation of project scope and timeline by Paul Cancilla and introduction to neighborhood vision and questions by Emily Miller Cook

* Explanation and geographic scope of other neighborhood initiatives
* Project timeline from January until July
* Vision:
  + What neighbors value most and the shared image of what they want their community to become
  + Inspiration
  + Planning
  + Resources
  + Action

7:10-7:40pm Small group discussions about the three questions about the neighborhood

* What do you value most about your neighborhood?
* What are the most important issues facing your neighborhood?
* Imagine the neighborhood 5-10 years from now… all of the important issues you mentioned have been addressed… What is different? What do you see, feel, hear, smell…
  + Meeting was broke into four smaller groups with between 10 to 15 people per group
  + Each group discussed each question for about 10 minutes but also discussed things as the pertained to the neighborhood in general

7:40-7:55pm Report back and review of discussion of each question with the group as a whole

* Each group discussed what they talked about for each question
* Group leader was chosen for each
* Groups asked the core committee to elaborate more about some of the topics
* Ideas were brought back and forth between the groups.

7:55-8:00pm Residents wrote down their reviews of the meeting and also three residents volunteered to join the sub-committee on the project.

Small Discussion Group Notes

Group 1

1. What do you value most in your neighborhood?
   1. Diversity
   2. Stores
   3. Community Centers
   4. Clubs
2. What are the most important issues facing your neighborhood?
   1. Empty lots
   2. Lack of opportunities
   3. Residents need jobs, hobbies, and find things for people to do
      1. There are a lot of things that need to be done, and there are a lot of kids that need something to do
   4. High school dropout rate
   5. Structure, busing services, drivers speeding, no lights, safety is an issue
   6. Crime rate, noise pollution
   7. Lack of opportunity for higher education and job training
   8. Lack of hope
   9. Can’t stay inside with lights on because fear of getting shot
   10. Littering, abandoned industrial properties, pollution, jobs, illegal dumping, tires, move security cameras, racism.
3. What does your neighborhood look like in 5 to 10 years?
   1. Peaceful, beautiful, thriving and prosperous
   2. Smells different
   3. Bike lanes, soccer fields, recreational areas
   4. Home ownership, more sidewalks
   5. Restaurants with healthy food
   6. Positive conversations with neighbors, laughter, functional democracy, more trees and success

Group 2

1. What do you value most in your neighborhood?
   1. Community Centers
   2. Accessible public transportation
   3. Public housing
   4. Parks and playgrounds
   5. Pool
   6. Faith-based institutions
   7. Schools
   8. Policing programs
   9. Corner stores and shopping centers
   10. Multi-generational
   11. Few bars and liquor stores
   12. Day care centers
   13. Family doctors
   14. Diversity and people of different nationalities
   15. Friendships
2. What are the most important issues facing your neighborhood?
   1. Safety concern: lack of streetlights
   2. Access to jobs
   3. Infrequent transportation outside of peak hours
   4. Structural year-round activities for youth and young adults ages 18-25
   5. Job training post-high school, service programs for drop-outs
   6. Cars speeding on Buffalo Rd., lack of traffic lights and crosswalks
   7. East Ave. bridge closing has detoured traffic
   8. Closing of Burton elementary school
   9. Crime rate
   10. Housing and commercial zoning
   11. Environmental concerns: factory emissions, towers, industrial land that is contaminated
   12. Financial disinvestment
   13. Lack of entertainment
   14. Eastside access to peninsula
   15. Higher Education institution/community college
   16. Train noise
   17. Illegal dumping
3. What does your neighborhood look in 5 to 10 years?
   1. More people walking outside of all ages enjoying the neighborhood
   2. Positive attitude and uplifting spirit
   3. Fewer abandoned buildings
   4. Less crime
   5. More community involvement and support
   6. More youth employment
   7. Burton school refurbished and reopened for some community use
   8. More entreprenuers and new businesses
   9. Clean, safe parks and recreational programs
   10. Clean environment with healthy air
   11. Clean streets
   12. More home ownership
   13. More restaurants serving healthy food
   14. Movie theater
   15. Reuse of abandoned industrial buildings
   16. Better relationships between neighbors

Group 3

1. What do you value most in your neighborhood?
   1. People are friendly and helpful
   2. Homes
   3. Parks including Roger Young park, Woodlawn Ave Park
   4. JFK Center
   5. Access to stores and pharmacies
2. What are the most important issues facing your neighborhood?
   1. Littering
   2. Lack of sidewalks and upkeep of sidewalks
   3. Lack of streetlights
   4. Wal-mart and Save-A-Lot
   5. Illegal dumping
   6. Speeding drivers
   7. Empty lots
   8. Abandoned industrial properties
   9. Crime
3. What does your neighborhood look like in 5 to 10 years?
   1. Clean streets and parks
   2. Houses are fixed up
   3. Peaceful and beautiful
   4. Tear down new parkway
   5. Better curbs and sidewalks
   6. Bike lanes
   7. More food options
   8. Hardware stores
   9. More entertainment like bowling alleys or public pools
   10. Library
   11. More police
   12. Better streetlights

Group 4

1. What do you value most in your neighborhood?
   1. Diversity
   2. Everyone getting along
   3. Quiet on East 19th St.
   4. Things are near by
   5. Know all neighbors and communicate with one another
   6. Close to other things
2. What are the most important issues facing the neighborhood?
   1. Something for kids to do; something to do with their time
   2. Property neglect and blight
   3. Empty lots
   4. Lack of opportunity
3. Where do you see your neighborhood in 5 to 10 years
   1. Everyone owning home and keeping it up
   2. More youth centers and churches
   3. More jobs
   4. More educational opportunity
   5. Less blight

Group 5

1. What do you value most in your neighborhood?
   1. Different age groups
   2. Young people have good ideas
   3. Homeowners working on homes as best as they can
   4. Community centers
   5. More lighting
   6. Diversity and residents of different nationalities
   7. Safer than 10 years ago
   8. Children
   9. Churches are trying to make changes
2. What are the most important issues facing the neighborhood?
   1. Need a community college
   2. Gun violence
   3. Hard to find people to do handiwork
   4. Increased noise pollution
   5. Nowhere to go for help
   6. Not inclusive
   7. Nowhere to hide from bullets
   8. Can’t sit in the front living room at night
   9. Bars are dangerous
   10. Cars in front of house
   11. Lack of jobs
   12. Lack of hope
   13. People are moving out
   14. Neighborhood behind the times
   15. Peer pressure among teens
   16. Drugs
   17. Residents living in fear
3. Where do you see your neighborhood in 5 to 10 years?
   1. People reaching out and helping each other
   2. Having a community college
   3. People are educated
   4. Community is proactive
   5. Everybody is heard
   6. Outreach programs
   7. Grocery stores
   8. Laundromat
   9. Friendly
   10. More jobs
   11. Renovated homes
   12. Neighborhood restored
   13. Positive mindset
   14. Cameras and lighting to curb crime
   15. Safe
   16. More people and families moving in
   17. Quiet and peaceful
   18. People getting along with each other