

Community Advisory Group (CAG)

for the

Omaha Lead Site

Comprehensive Plan Subcommittee
Summary Notes from July 14, 2005 Meeting
Urban League of Nebraska Family Resource Center

Brenda Council (CAG Facilitator), Lelia Coyne (citizen), Jonah Deppe (League of Women Voters), Mary Hill (Sisters Together), Matthew Jareske (University of Nebraska, Omaha), Jennifer Rawley (MFG, Inc.), Shireen Rajaram (University of Nebraska, Omaha), and Vernon Waldren (Douglas/Sarpy County Extension Office) were in attendance.

The Comprehensive Plan Subcommittee began the meeting by discussing possible changes to the City Code that would address lead-based paint. Ms. Deppe stated that International Codes exist for lead-based paint, but have not been adopted by the City. Dr. Rajaram suggested looking at the International Codes and HUD guidelines to draft suggested changes to the City Code. Ms. Deppe stated that the City Planning Department would be able to draft the appropriate text.

The Subcommittee reviewed Section 48-19 of the City Code, which reads, “Notwithstanding provisions of this code, the city shall require repair of cosmetic deficiencies such as shipped or peeling paint, deteriorating tuck pointing and cracked or flaking interior walls or ceilings, only if such a deficiency either (a) affects at least 25 percent of the surface in question, or (b) presents a serious health or safety risk to occupants or the public.” Ms. Council asked how the City defines a “serious health or safety risk.” Ms. Deppe replied that the City lets the Douglas County Health Department decide if a health risk exists. Ms. Council stated that with documentation, such as ATSDR’s Public Health Assessment, the City would have to define lead-based paint as a serious health risk. Ms. Council suggested that the Subcommittee request that the City Code be annotated to define that lead-based paint is a serious health risk. Ms. Council stated that she would look into the pending court case involving the City Code, before any further action is taken by the Subcommittee.

Next, the Subcommittee discussed the structure of a 501(c)(3). Ms. Council stated that she had been envisioning a two-tier structure that would include a governing body and the Alliance (as described in the CAG’s Comprehensive Plan). Ms. Council suggested that the governing body would write bylaws, set a budget, and perform other governing tasks, while the Alliance would set program priorities and carry out the program. The Subcommittee agreed that a two-tier approach is appropriate. Ms. Council stated that she is looking for funding for an attorney to set up the 501(c)(3). This would be a new agency especially for the purpose of coordinating funding and the Omaha Lead Site Alliance.

Ms. Council then suggested identifying members of the governing body. Ms. Council stated that the CAG could propose eligibility requirements and mechanisms for filling the positions. Ms

Council suggested the governing board should include the following representatives, and the Subcommittee agreed to submit the following nine-member governing body:

1. Mayor or Representative
2. Douglas County Health Department Director or Representative
3. Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality Director or Representative
4. Potentially Responsible Party Representative
5. Business Community Member
6. Philanthropic Community Member
7. Community-Based Organization Representative
8. Citizen at Large (resident of the Omaha Lead Site)
9. Citizen at Large (parent residing in the Omaha Lead Site)

Ms. Deppe stated her concerns regarding reducing the number of Citizens at Large as originally recommended in the Comprehensive Plan.

The Subcommittee agreed to present the above recommendations for a governing body to the CAG at the next full CAG meeting.

The next Subcommittee meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 9, 2005 at 10:30 a.m. at the Family Resource Center, located at 3040 Lake Street.