

City of Sylvania

GICH Retreat
Fall Update - August 9, 2011

Since Retreat in February

- We focused on building partnerships in the community and educating the GICH Housing Team.
- We have held 5 housing meetings since the February retreat in Savannah.
- We are now starting to educate the community.

Goal: Housing

- We are currently in the process of setting up a Land Bank Authority
 - We have met with 2 City Managers that have experience setting up Land Banks.
 - We reached out to the County, the Chamber of Commerce, and the IDA and invited them to a Land Bank Workshop.
 - Also, we sent staff and council members to Land Bank workshops at GMA in Savannah.
 - We will have further meetings with the County Commission and the Mayor and Council to decide how to move forward to set up the Land Bank Authority.

Goal: Housing Continued...

- We have met with the CRC and had an Infill Development Plan and a Pedestrian Plan drawn up. We have also done a housing assessment with the Infill Plan focusing on 3 main neighborhoods.
- Both plans have been presented to the Mayor and Council as well as the Planning and Design Commission.
- We are currently in the process of implementing both plans.

Goal: Housing Continued...

- The GICH Team held a workshop on Tax Credit Housing with Gregg Bayard and Curry Wadsworth of Parallel Housing as the guest speakers.
- The City Manager has also met with Gregg and Curry about doing a housing development in Sylvania.
- With the help of Parallel Housing, we are looking to address the housing issues in the St. Andrews Hill area first.

Goal: Housing Continued...

- In addition, we are looking at building senior apartments close to the downtown area with the help of Parallel Housing.
- We are now hoping to get a grant writer and apply for funding in the next year for the new housing development.

Goal: Housing Continued...

- Housing improvements on a small scale are slowly starting in Sylvania.
- One example is apartments that were formerly a classrooms in a Christian school. The front part of the facility is now a Senior Day Care & Activity Center.
- In the past few months the classrooms behind the facility have been turned into one bedroom senior apartments. Some of the improvements include new paint, flooring, and light fixtures.
- The city helped with tapping into the water lines and setting up the meter boxes.



Goal: Building Partnerships

- The City of Sylvania and the GICH team has reached out to the Downtown Development Authority, Chamber of Commerce, Board of Commissioners, and the Media.
- We have also reached out to local business owners, Habitat for Humanity, and the Waynesboro Housing Authority.

Goal: Building Partnerships Cont'd...

- BB&T has offered to hold workshops to help people improve their credit.
- USDA has offered to do pre-qualifications for home loans for local citizens.

Goal: Continuing Education

- We have had about 5 housing meetings to educate the GICH team.
- We have had housing meetings on Urban Redevelopment, the Waynesboro Housing Authority, USDA Housing loan programs, Parallel Housing, Bulloch Habitat for Humanity, BB&T, and have had speakers with experience setting up Land Banks Authorities.

Moving Forward...

- In the future we hope to pass an Urban Redevelopment Plan.
- We also hope to meet with the county and jointly set up a Land Bank Authority in the next few months.
- The City hopes to apply for CHIP and CDBG grant funding for housing in the next year.
- We will be meeting with grant writers in the near future to help us apply for grants.

Moving Forward Continued...

- We also hope to continue to educate the community about housing programs available to them.
- We have started with the St. Andrews Hill area and are having housing meetings for that area.
- The City Manager has already met with the St. Andrews Hill Neighborhood Association twice, and the city will hold another neighborhood-wide meeting for feedback on housing issues and improvements in the near future.

The City of Sylvania....



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