

**Neighborhood Planning Process: Community Kick-off Event
January 10, 2009
Overall Feedback from Morning Breakout Discussions**

During the morning session, residents, sitting in groups of ten, discussed the biggest challenges of flood recovery, the priorities important for the future of Cedar Rapids and the goals and outcomes expected of the Neighborhood Planning Process.

Group A	Group B	Group C
<p>Similar ideas repeated at many tables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing – affordable, diverse, & immediate needs • Keeping historic types of homes • Neighborhood things to do: Walkability, recreation center affordable to everyone • Job security and diversity • Public transportation, especially to and from work • Neighborhood schools 	<p>Similar ideas repeated at many tables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good, sustainable jobs – attraction & retention • Affordable Housing – diversity in types and residents • Entertainment – diverse by age and types, outdoor/indoor • Downtown destination • Having things in each neighborhood • Walkability, accessibility, & transportation • Traditional neighborhoods – how to rebuild, retain character, & involve people • Green building & green space • Community centers • Parks/trails/outdoor recreation – around the river • Move forward by getting answers, communication & accessibility, consistency of the message • Community governance & security from future flood • Sustainability – LEED certified buildings • Walkability between neighborhoods & to downtown area • Ask the youth and get them involved • Guilt from people not directly flood-affected • Cultural presence in the neighborhood 	<p>Similar ideas repeated at many tables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete strong neighborhoods – walkability, connectivity, recreation, stores/businesses, feeling of "whole", not division • Riverfront as main focal point and attraction to bring the City together • Urgency of flood protection • Local plan (Linn/Johnson Co.) • Affordable housing, including rental • Jobs/small business • Working together as one big group to put plan together • Encourage youth to give input

**Neighborhood Planning Process: Community Kick-off Event
January 10, 2009
Overall Feedback from Afternoon Breakout Discussions**

During the afternoon session, residents, sitting in groups of ten, discussed their understanding of sustainability and how it applies to the community, environment, resources and economy of Cedar Rapids. They also discussed ways to make the Neighborhood Planning Process an effective partnership between the neighborhoods and the city government.

Group A	Group B	Group C
<p>Similar ideas repeated at many tables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication – people needing the information, two-way relationships with neighborhood associations to build trust • City should be listening with empathetic ear • Communication – consistent and timely – will get more people involved in the process • Commitment to process – notes to public • Co-location/Community Center to serve as resource center – computer access & community services • Cooperation 	<p>Similar ideas repeated at many tables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental sustainability – green education • Planning & zoning support, regulations that allow us to do these activities • Recycling – easier ways to do it • Accountability – how is the plan measurable • How can we play together better? Trust the process and people, need to have visible results, transparency, & responsibility/ownership, listening • Defining success – how do we know we are on the right track & successful? • Why should people be involved? Make it easier through childcare & mixed media communication • Take risks to move forward • Plan of action • People must be involved from a neighborhood level and bridge gaps between different groups 	<p>Similar ideas repeated at many tables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major employers should be involved in the process • Environment – focus on the river • Community – input, good communication, and trust • Get messages from the people to the City leaders • People care and want their ideas heard • Make this process an example for other cities and states • Keep doing what we are doing today, but make it better for the next meeting, and the next meeting