



Minneapolis Public Housing Authority Holds Successful VISIONING Workshop

December 2015

MPHA facilitated a VISIONING Workshop on Thursday, November 12 at Luxton Park where residents of Glendale Family Townhomes and other community members were invited to share ideas about the future of Glendale Townhomes. The agenda for the workshop included a welcome from Council Member Cam Gordon, who represents the Second Ward where Glendale Townhomes is located. Cora McCorvey, Executive Director/CEO of MPHA also extended a welcome to the more than 40 participants who attended the workshop. Ms. McCorvey introduced a brief video that described recent residential communities that MPHA has constructed for senior citizens and low-income families in the City of Minneapolis. The video can be viewed by clicking on the following link. <http://www.mphaonline.org>



The VISIONING workshop was facilitated by Biko Associates, MPHA's communications consultant, and seven language translators (Hmong, Oromo, and Somali). In order to efficiently move through the workshop agenda, participants and translators were grouped at tables where ideas about Glendale Family Townhomes were discussed. Participants at the tables responded to questions focused on discovering ways that Glendale Townhomes can be improved.

Responses to the questions are summarized below.

1. While a minority of residents felt nothing should be changed, many more expressed concerns that the apartments are generally too small, especially bathrooms and bedrooms; neighbors in the adjoining apartment can be overheard; windows leak cold air; and basements and stairs make the apartments inaccessible for wheelchairs. The residents who cited problems with the apartments felt that comprehensive reconstruction would be needed to rectify existing deficiencies.
2. All the participants felt the existing layout, which provides yards and play areas that "within eye sight" should not be changed. All agreed that the layout, which includes areas for gardening, is a positive that helps build a sense of community and trust among neighbors.
3. The majority of residents discussed their dreams to attend educational courses and receive training that would enable them to find jobs so that they could leave Glendale Townhomes and find housing in the private market. For these individuals, proximity to the University of Minnesota was important. They also indicated their support for on-site programs that engage their children and provide them with services that will help ensure they are able to be successful and without need for public housing.
4. There were mixed feelings about the examples of housing types that were shown. About one-half of the participants liked them, and the other half did not. Those who liked them mentioned the front porches, the front yards, the updated architectural designs of the buildings, and individual doorways to each apartment. Those who did not like them felt that they were too dense and would allow more than 184 families to move in. They commented that the alternative housing types would eliminate the existing gardens, would diminish the existing sense of community in Glendale Family Townhomes, and would negatively affect [*presumably the appeal and value of*] "historic" Prospect Park.
5. Only a small number of residents felt as though they would live at Glendale Family Townhomes long into the future. The majority felt that they would hope to find pathways out of public housing.
6. There was strong agreement that the Prospect Park neighborhood would benefit from an increased supply of senior housing that would allow residents (existing Glendale Family Townhome residents and others in Prospect Park) to stay in the area as they age.

About 20 Glendale Family Townhome residents and Prospect Park residents decided to boycott the workshop. They were urged and invited to participate with others in the discussion about Glendale Family Townhomes' future. It was their decision, however, not to accept MPHA's invitation. They did submit a list of items they would like MPHA to consider when options for the future are determined. Their list was received, and the items they described will be included when options for the future are developed.

MPHA will not hold a monthly residents' meeting in December 2015. Instead, the time will be spent, analyzing input from the VISIONING Workshop and responses to the survey that was left at each resident's door on Saturday, November 7. (If you have not yet completed and submitted your survey, please do so. Completed surveys can be dropped off at the on-site manager's office.) The next meeting will take place in early 2016, where options for Glendale Family Townhomes' future will be presented for review and comment.

MPHA would like to thank all who participated in the VISIONING Workshop for their time and energy and willingness to work together to ensure that there will be a safe and clean community for low-income people at Glendale Family Townhomes well into the future.



English

This information is important. If you do not understand it, please contact your property manager for free language assistance.

Hmong

Yog koj tsi to taub txog cov nqi lust seem ceeb, no, thov hu mus rau ntawm tsev luam qhov chaw ua hauj lwm Manager peb yuav pab ntxhais rau nej.

Somali

Halkan waxaa ku qoran war ama akhbaar aad u muhim ah, haddii aad fahmi kari weydo, fadlan ula tag wakiilka hay'adda Manager, si aad tarjumaad bilaash ah uga hesho.

Oromo

Beeksifni kun hedduu barbaachisaa dha. Yaadni isaa hoo isiniif hin galle ta'e, bakka bu'aa Manager, akka afaan isiniif hikamu gargaarsa tolaa gaafadhaa.