

Planning Underway for East 130th Street

August 12, 2016

The demolition of two vacant and distressed apartment buildings at East 130th Street and Drexmore Road has been accomplished, and demolition of a third on East 130th is nearing completion. This success has opened the opportunity to address the future redevelopment of East 130th Street behind Dave's Market between Drexmore and Buckeye Roads and expand the "vibrant and diverse" recognition that the Shaker Square area neighborhoods enjoy.

Collaborative efforts are underway. Shaker Square Area Development Corporation (SHAD) continues to host monthly meetings facilitated by Jay Westbrook of the Thriving Communities Institute. Task groups also have been addressing development and code compliance, safety and community engagement issues to improve conditions and revitalize the area.

The concerted goal of all task groups is to better conditions in the area for residents, businesses and visitors. Meeting attendees include concerned East 130th and neighboring area residents, SHAD board representatives, the Thriving Communities Institute, Organize!Ohio, the Coral Company, Holy Grove Baptist Church, Cleveland Neighborhood Progress (CNP), Buckeye Shaker Square Development Corporation (BSSDC) and City of Cleveland representatives including the Cleveland Police Department.

The community outreach working group has been successful in engaging residents in the future of their street. The task group is reaching out to apartment owners and management to address problems and encourage continuation of resident participation in clean up days and social functions. Also on their agenda is the exterior conditions at the post office.

SHAD initiated and continues to coordinate a street security patrol through Securitas Security Services. Monetary donations come from area businesses and stakeholders to offset patrol costs. Representatives from the Cleveland Police Department continue to attend monthly meetings to help gauge area problems and needs, and address those issues with special attention. The public safety group is exploring the use of high-definition security cameras for placement in strategic locations. This group is in the process of looking for funding.

As the East 130th task groups diligently tackled issues, a planning process was requested and has begun through CNP. This strategic planning process will take advantage of "location, location, location" and identify the best land use for development. Marketing outreach will revitalize the street and benefit the surrounding area neighborhoods and will be partially funded by the St. Luke's Foundation. The process will be coordinated with CNP, SHAD and BSSDC and shared at community meetings.