Greenwood Site Tour

Thursday, July 14, 2011
5:30pm – 7:30pm
9 attendees

BREAKOUT SESSION (DB)

Site Significance
- Used to be able to walk to school, bussing kids across town is hard on kids
- Greenwood was viewed as our “home elementary” in the neighborhood community grew up in...many are sad to see it close
- One participant attended Greenwood as a child
- Residents would like kids to attend school in neighborhood

Strengths
- Location within the neighborhood. 27th Street location -- community presence/anchor and potentially increases reuse potential
- Style. Configuration of the building and architectural features make the building desirable. Positive features include high ceilings, large rooms and big windows
- The building is still an asset to the community
- Proximity to transit...on a bus line
- Proximity to highway
- Opportunity to build and reinvest in the neighborhood instead of building elsewhere

Challenges
- Building has been closed for so long, there is a loss of connection to the site
- Condition. Will require extensive resources to renovate and bring back to the original state
- Getting the community involved in reuse...creating community pride and ownership of site
- Safety. The area has high crime and drug activity
- This isn’t the inner city, people consider it the “ghetto”
- Lots of Section 8 housing in the area

Community Needs
- Youth focus. Youth need attention and to be steered in the right direction. There needs to be a gathering place for youths. Youth have to travel far to reach a community center and these centers do not provide adequate programs
- Gathering place for the entire community
- Parents can’t afford day care
- Low-income families need access to health services
- Help for an aging population
• Need to find a way to reinvest in the community and to attract and retain residents/families/businesses
• Neighborhood needs to support local business. Retail has left the neighborhood because of lack of community support
• Safe place
• Quality housing
• In-fill housing on large stock of empty lots
• Jobs
• A location for recycling

Reuse Options
• Community center
  o Recreation, summer youth programs and after-school tutoring
• Day care center providing services to low-income families
• Library
• Park (other residents said there is no need for additional park space)
• Mixed Use
  o Retail, services, living, and office
• Education
  o Adult trade education and vocational training
  o Montessori school
• Community health center
  o Like Swope Health Centers with satellite centers offering health services, education, and possibly incorporates child care with health care
  o Medical rehabilitation center
• If commercial use – would need to benefit the surrounding community
• Business Incubator
• Recycling center