Tuesday, May 31, 2011
5:30 – 7:30pm
10+ attendees

BREAKOUT SESSION (FB, DC)

Site Significance
- Mrs. Obama talked about this area as a food desert.
- Children attended this school
- Community members attended Ladd
- Building used to be overflowing, full of life

Strengths
- In excellent condition: move in ready
- Access to transportation
- Still considered a center place/gathering spot
- Grounds are used by the community (t-ball practice in session during the site tour) – this helps ward off illicit activity
- Building is big and has versatility
- Size and set up of rooms are good: large rooms

Challenges
- Concerned about building being vacant, Attracts illegal activities and vandalism
- Seen signs of people in the building
- Illicit activity taking place
- Adult men parking in parking lot during the evenings (area that is not easily seen from the street) – concerns about drug activity

Solutions to Challenges
- Encourage use of grounds, playground (supervised)
- Block area off/make in-accessible
- Surveillance camera located in key spots
- Bars or mesh screen over doors and windows

Community Needs
- Jobs
- Community facility
- Education
- Facility to serve the heart of the community
• Salons, services, goods
• Food desert (have to go to Blue Parkway now)
• Entertainment/Recreation
• To create places/services that will make people want to live in the area

Reuse Options (that could address community needs)
• Mentoring related to housing rehabilitation
• Shopping center
• Community center
• Community center/shopping center
• Technical school/Life skills education
• Women and children education center
• Meeting rooms
• Coffee shop
• Boys and Girls club/ YMCA for youth
• Senior housing (like D.A. Holmes)
  o Concerned about affordable/subsidized housing being built when plenty of vacant houses in neighborhood
  o Multi family housing a possibility
• Senior services (like Palestine Sr. Center)
• Grocery Store
• Urban agriculture
• Distribution center for angel food network
• Food Processing retail incubator
• Housing resource center
• One stop shop social service center