

Meeting Notes

Date: 7-14-09, 9 a.m.

Location: Room K, Rock County Job Center

RE: CORD Steering Committee Meeting

The following CORD Steering Team members and others were present: Bob Borremans (presiding), Gail Graham, Sue Conley, Lisa Furseth, Bud Gayhart, Amy Loudenberg, Martha Pearson (YWCA), Josh Smith, Yuri Rashkin, Russ Poszilni, Nick Fitzgerald, Kelly Horrell, Eric Kuznacic, Gregg Bosak (recording) and Mark Burwell of E-Hub.

Following introductions, Bob spoke of several e-mails he has recently received related to the potential of inviting Ed Montgomery, Pres. Obama's 'car czar' (Director of Recovery for Auto Communities and Workers) to Rock County. The group concurred it would be an excellent idea to invite him for one day. Bob will work through Danyell Tremell (Paul Ryan) and Larry Molnar to attempt to secure Montgomery's visit.

As for the topics or what Ed would cover, several suggestions were made. Russ asked "What do you do with a five-million square foot facility? Josh said it isn't just Ed coming to speak, but we needed to 'get on his radar,' and tell him what he needed to know about us. Amy felt he would need numbers and quantitative information. Others included a tour of the community, how to put solutions into place, presenting our Blueprint/Matrix plan, and best practices of growing your own. Sue mentioned we may also want to attach dollar amounts to appropriate proposed initiatives. Gregg mentioned time would need to be allowed for media/legislator/officials to meet with Ed.

Next Eric Kuznacic described the draft of the community workshop topics for the upcoming months. There were many suggestions for new topics, presenters, changes, timeframes, etc. Eric will work on those to develop a revised schedule. Eric will have a new schedule for programs developed by August 1 for the first three months.

The topic of social networking was discussed. Bob spoke of how it might be connected with a project UW-Extension was working on, along with the possibility of tying it into the United Way's youth group.

Mark Burwell was introduced and explained more about the E-Hub program he is involved with. Mark is the National Executive Director of E-Hub, a program that builds communities of entrepreneurs. It is a unique program where staff members work one-on-one with clients to help them explore business ideas and market feasibility. They have multiple resources and opportunities for 'cupiding' with other entrepreneurs along with events to expose various entrepreneurial activities and learning through mentorship and continued counseling. E-Hub is a non-profit community initiative with participants from a wide variety of social/economic backgrounds, race, gender and income status. Their vision is "The Power of 92," in reference to the founding influence of former Packer Reggie White. Mark also profiled a number of individuals who have successfully used the E-Hub services to become successful.

Following lunch, Mark covered many of the same topics he spoke of in the morning session. The group listening now included Katie Kuznacic and Kim Hixson. The group concurred that participating in this program would be an excellent idea. The session ended at 1:30 p.m.