

Workshop #1, Collaboration Notes

Workshop Led by: Pete Tulipana

Initiated by: Landmarks, Inc.

Location: Alley Poyner Macchietto Architects

Date: April 30th, 2009

Attended by: Chris Jansen, Bryan Zimmer, Cindy Tooker, Nano Little, Travis Sing, Linda Sing, Julie Reilly, Vince Furlong, Stuart Shell, Alesha Hauser, Barb Naughtin, Dan Boshult, Kristine Gerber, David Levy, Paul Nelson



The following information was collected from the leaders of various preservation related organizations active in Omaha.

Purpose for meeting was to ask ourselves why....

We are not maximizing opportunities because of diffuse groups

There is no clear message about preservation

There is no local preservation alliance

Governmental commitment and leadership is missing from the picture

We are losing interest from volunteers because of confusion / group diffusing

Landmarks Commission is not a player and operates reactively

Within the various groups represented, we are all trying to....

Improve and preserve our city

Educate the community

Stimulate economic development through historic preservation, i.e. Old Market, Dundee, etc.

Attract interested people

Create Personal enrichment, and improve the quality of life in our City

The group has positive feelings about...

The excitement and new energy about the preservation issues and events

The group of people and leaders

Negative Feelings stem from....

Confusion about who is doing what

Being overwhelmed with work

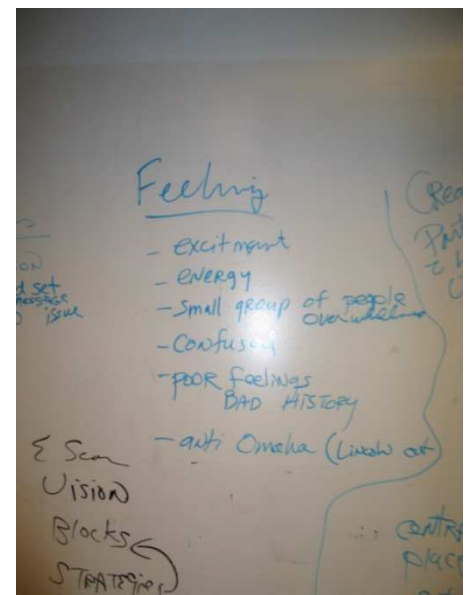
Those that have been mistreated by others in various groups

Tough memories about losing Omaha's landmarks

Omaha's anti-preservationists (The Omaha 5)

Common challenges are...

Lack of Time

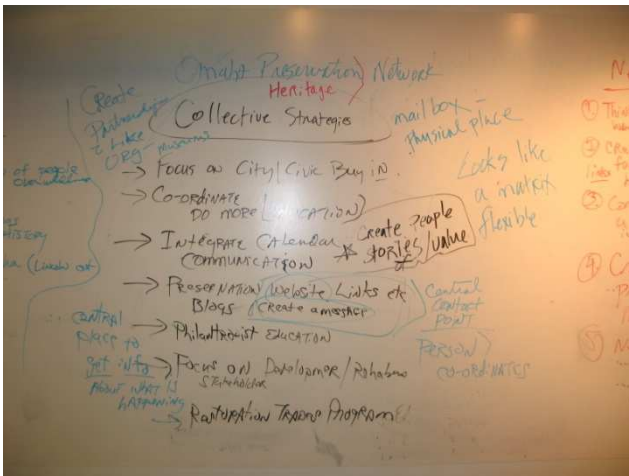


Lack of Money
 Maintaining Memberships
 Public attitude against what we value
 Public and civic leaders are uneducated about history, uniformed and apathetic
 Powers that control Omaha always makes preservation an unpopular issue.
 Decision makers always use \$ as an excuse. There is no long term consideration of what is best for our City

Common attitudes are...

People who are very passionate about our city's heritage
 We all are focused on education

A few collective strategies were introduced



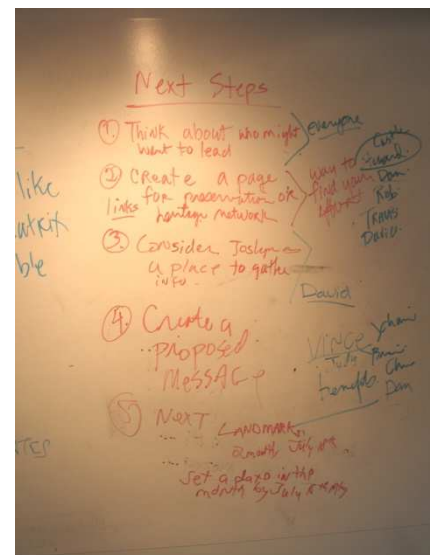
Goal = To create a central place to get information about what is happening in the heritage community

an Omaha Heritage Preservation Network could...

- Get citywide & civic buy-in
- Create partnerships
- Coordinate all groups that are educating
- Integrate a master events calendar
- Create a physical mailbox
- Have a unified website with a blog / message board
- List opportunities to serve and who to contact
- Centralize a location to hold meetings and events
- Create stories of people who value what we do
- Create a volunteer matrix

Next Steps are...

1. Think about which organization should/could lead the development of an Alliance
Who: Everyone
2. Form a web page that links heritage groups together
Who : Stuart, Dan, Rob, David/Nano, Travis
3. Create a common Message
Who: Vince, Judy, Brian Chris, Dan
4. Use the Joslyn Castle Facility to gather and display each group's info (bulletin board?)
Who: Nano / David
5. Set next meeting, July 18th at the Castle. Landmarks to initiate one month in advance.
Who: Paul



Environmental Analysis - Organization Summaries

Landmarks, Inc.

501c3

Lively Board

Ready for a change

Has memberships

Focused on education and awareness

Follows the National Trust model to educate the community

Would like to focus on Omaha's youth

Actively planning walking tours

Strength:

Long history in Omaha = archives, database, legacy

Weakness:

Long history in Omaha = past failures, tired image

2020

Looking forward

Focused on 1920-1970 architecture

Is proactive, not reactive

Education is the prime goal

Is Fun!

Developing an inventory of national register nominations

Enjoys being small

Board members have knowledge in preservation

Strengths:

Knowledge base of board, connections with State Historical Society / Ford Center

Weakness:

Lack of time and resources to get it all done

Restore Omaha

4 years new, grew out of 2020

Need to find a way to connect people with restoration experts

Holds conferences to introduce craftsmen to property owners.

Focused on neighborhoods, Park Ave, Bemis Park, South O, etc.

Helps restorians network and "play together"

Partners with Metro Community College

Strength:

Bringing everyone together

Challenges:

Finding contractors who get it

Heritage Nebraska

State wide group, formed as an extension of Nebraska Main Streets

Similar mission to Omaha groups, but serves bigger area

1 year old

Has good funding source through the National Trust, State and private donors

Has a State wide list featuring less known sites, and endangered ones.

Has a Board, members, committees and staff

Strength:
Executive Director and Staff

Weakness:
Getting traction in small towns

Omaha Main Streets

Focused on projects like 40th Street, trying to make it a premier street
Working on a heritage tour of S 24th street business district
Wants to improve properties
Connected with Midtown Neighborhood Alliance, street car board

Strengths:
Vince, a committee of one
Good Follow up

Challenge:
Building a board
Working with the City Gov.

Joslyn Castle Trust

501c3
Devoted to restoring, preserving the Castle property
Scope is narrow, but focused on preserving the Legacy of the Joslyns
Needs to increase pace of the properties restoration
Creating more educational opportunities, using the facility
Wants to be a focal point for preservation

Strengths:
Great Board
Great Executive Director
A beautiful building with many restoration opportunities

Challenges:
Small Staff, Big Property
Expensive projects and maintenance

Douglas County Historical Society

Focused on education
Has collection of newsprint, photos, neighborhood, stories
Located in the Crook House, Fort Omaha
Has a base of volunteers
Outgrowing current facility

Strengths:
Amazing archives
Fort Omaha Campus

Challenges:
Not visible
Not centrally located in City
No new goals