**MLK Subarea Plan/EIS Working Group
Meeting Notes
People’s Community Center, 1602 South Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Tacoma, WA
Thursday, July 12, 2012 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.**

* **Justin Leighton(Central Neighborhood Council)**
* **Dawn Rodin(Hilltop Action Coalition)**
* **Mike Denney(MultiCare)**
* **Dalton Gittens(New Tacoma Neighborhood Council)**
* **Dorian Waller(Tacoma Urban League)**
* **Connie Brown(Affordable Housing Consortium)**

**Welcome and Introductions: Justin Leighton**

**Tacoma Housing Authority (THA’s role in development of Hilltop): Michael Mirra**

THA has been primarily focused on the development of Salishan, but is now redirecting its focus to building communities, catalyst projects. An example of which being Hillside terrace which sparked several community gardens and condos to be built in the vicinity. He went into detail about several projects THA is involved with presently in the Hilltop area and provided several detailed packets outlining each. These projects included:

1) Hillside Terrace (three phases), 2) Brown’s property, 3) New Look Apartments, 4) 11th and MLK vacant lot, and 5) Education Project

Michael also discussed the possibility of a master planning entity. He asked if the group thought THA should fill that role. He pointed to THA’s present spot developments, ability to ensure continued convening of public voice (through local leadership like this group), and ability to act as a cheerleader for the vision created by working group. He also spoke to the benefits of having eminent domain which THA does and funding which they have.

**Group Comments:**

 The group had some questions on which building and what portion of the buildings were to be mixed use. They did like the idea of a master planning entity but wanted more information on what that would entail. In the past there has been concern over THA being seen as bringing poor into the community but Michael suggested that these fears are usually alleviated when people see the projects and noted that the real challenges lie in design and property management. Finally the group had questions regarding how much and what kind of traffic will there be in the area after these projects.

**Housing Survey: Noah Yacker**

 Noah briefly went over Housing data collected by Tom Beckwith who was unable to attend. The group suggested adding Elementary and High School teachers to the survey as well as University and Bates professors. They would also like to see more examples of housing. The discussion was held over to the next meeting when Tom can go over the data and answer any questions directly.

**Healthy Community Evaluation: Bill Bergman**

 Bill Bergman along with two additional interns is working on a project to the health of the community taking into account many factors including but not limited to: walkability, transportation, home ownership, and food.

Next meeting scheduled for Aug 9th, Open House scheduled for Aug 16th