

ALGIERS TOWNE PLAN Workshop #3 Summary

August 19, 2006, the people attending the workshop divided into the nine (9) neighborhood groups in Planning Districts 12 and 13 as designated by the City Planning Commission.

DESIGN QUESTION # 1

It's 2009 and Algiers has the best school system in the United States. What specifically did they do?

What did Algiers do to increase community and business participation / support in public / charter schools?

How have schools become an integral part of the community?

How did people become more confident in the ability of public / charter schools to provide quality and equitable education for the children of Algiers?

What was done to increase accountability and standards?

How have post-secondary schools (Delgado, Holy Cross, etc.) and the K-12 schools become collaborative partners?

How were public / charter school facilities (buildings, equipment, etc.) enhanced / improved?

DESIGN QUESTION #2

It's 2009 and Algiers is one of the most successful communities in the country in every way a community can be measured. What 2-3 specific things did Algiers do during 2006-07 with Housing?

Responses from each group varied to some extent from the format listed. In general, however, the work product of each group provides the planners with important and valuable information to incorporate into the Algiers Towne Plan.

NEIGHBORHOOD RESPONSES:

Algiers Point:

Education:

1. Incentives for parental involvement
2. Improved, highly qualified professional principals and teachers
3. Enhanced, clean physical plants

Housing:

1. Affordable housing programs with public & private partnerships
2. City laws and services (zoning, codes, etc.) that are enforced and carried out to clean up housing stock
3. Riverfront development in general

Behrman:

Education:

1. Build schools right! Use high quality materials. Make schools like home. Nexus system with elementary, middle, and high schools located in separate buildings on the same campus using shared facilities.
2. Run them right! Redo administration. Choose representatives wisely. Demand more and not settle for special interest groups. Insure discipline from school and home. Solid curriculum unified for all schools. Higher pay = higher standards.

Housing:

1. Build smart, sustainable homes! Energy efficient. Steel instead of wood. Off-street parking. Raised and well anchored. Wind and termite resistant.
2. Don't rebuild the slums! No inferior materials. Enforce standards for building / rebuilding. Shared housing plan (owner occupied with rental properties). Pride in neighborhood.

Navy Base:Education:

1. Develop a school community that interfaces with Business and Industry. Provide real-world experience. (Joint effort with Colleges)
2. Smaller classroom size. Improved student-teacher ratio. Unified schools, access to quality schools for all students. School facility maintenance.

Housing:

1. Build good neighborhood communication. Take measures to prevent blighted properties. Create policies and enforce them.
2. Build houses with more personal space. Less density. Improve lighting and streets. Make sure accessible and available affordable housing is available.
3. Put support facilities around people with disabilities needing homes.

New Aurora / English Turn / Lower Coast:Education:

1. Improved funding & development of school infrastructure. (Funded by dedicated sources – Taxes / Bonds)
2. Creation of a “cohesive unified” school system with accountability and oversight run individually by qualified principals.

Housing:

1. Focused / dedicated funding for infrastructure of existing Algiers community and tax base.
2. Improved environmental safety (levees) and community safety (including mixed-use housing, community policing, elimination of blight)

Old Aurora:Education:

1. Business sponsorship / partnership with schools
2. Discipline / Communication

Housing:

1. Infrastructure
2. Quality of Life

Tall Timbers / Brechtel:Education:

1. Community involvement – Schools center of community.
2. Bring in people associated with successful systems.
3. Mentorship programs through neighborhood associations that are open to all kids. Schools reach out to business.

Housing:

1. Affordable & accessible housing. Riverfront development (shopping, entertainment). Architectural design codes / guidelines.
2. Eliminate blighted housing
3. Quality of life: Promote healthy & active lifestyle through parks, trails, bike paths, and the riverfront.

Whitney / Fischer / McDonough:Education:

1. Created programs for adult literacy. This helps to support their children’s educational needs / efforts. Family becomes “a family of learners”.
2. Workplace literacy accessible to adults at their workplace.
3. A higher number of children graduate and become part of the post secondary education which become support for economic development.

Housing:

1. Universal access, safe & affordable housing and thriving mixed income neighborhoods.
2. Neighborhoods have access to transportation, central services (libraries, one-stop employment, social services, etc.)