



Strong Neighborhoods Committee Update

<https://wilksburgcdc.org/strong-neighborhoods-committee/>

July/August 2021

(action items in bold)

Purpose: The goal of this committee is to build strong neighborhoods through an investigation of the causes and impacts of blight and vacancy in Wilksburg and work with the WCDC to develop a Vacant Property Re-Use Plan to address vacancy and blight, mitigate threats of displacement and gentrification, and create catalysts for reinvestment driven by community vision.

Outreach/ Neighborhood Meetings

- Community Meetings are well under way; we have so far met with Singer Place, Upper Center, High School, Franklin, Hunter Park, Park Triangle, Sperling, and Princeton Park neighborhoods with more on the way. Conversations have been quite diverse with unique concerns and interests in their own neighborhoods.
 - During the first meeting, residents are asked to help familiarize the planning team with the unique context of the neighborhood and to collectively develop a SWOT analysis to help inform the conversation, while taking a deeper look at the data that was collected in the fall/winter. We also review categories of strategies we are able to work with and what constraints we may be working off of
 - During the second meeting, we take a closer look at certain areas of the neighborhood where concentrations of vacancy exist, and where unique patterns are visible to determine a guiding framework to approach more detailed project selection - such as rehabilitation over demolition, the emphasis on new development vs greenspace, amenities and uses that are missing.
- These conversations would not have been possible without the help and support of all our partners and hosts. A big thank you to Mt Calvary Baptist, Covenant Fellowship Reformed, Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf, Community Forge, and the many residents who helped spread the word!



- Remember there are only 4 neighborhood meetings left so make sure to mark your calendars! Be sure to register for updates or check back frequently as dates, locations, and times may need to change as plans are solidified. **Registration for all future meetings can be found [here](#).** We are prioritizing reaching individuals who live or work in the neighborhood. Meetings have now moved to being in-person with the host and location being posted to the Strong Neighborhoods page.

- **We want your feedback!**

If you have not been able to participate in your community meetings but would like to provide input please reach out to vacantproperty@wilkinsburgcdc.org

Education/Technical Assistance

- The education resources page has been published and continues to be updated - this is a helpful tool to learn more about terms and programs that may come up in the planning conversations as well as provide leads to new programs and opportunities that residents may find helpful related to: vacant properties, acquisition, rehab and repair, and renter resources. [Education & Resources](#)
 - **If anyone has additional resources they would like to add this list, or notice anything that needs to be updated, please reach out to aaron@wilkinsburgcdc.org**
- Just a reminder that anyone with specific questions related to vacant properties, can reach out to the WCDC to schedule a personal appointment to ask questions and work through any processes or applications of interest. **Just email vacantproperty@wilkinsburgcdc.org to schedule an appointment.**



THE
**STRONG
NEIGHBORHOODS
COMMITTEE**

Invites you to join us as we address vacant properties throughout the community.

**NEIGHBORHOOD VISIONING SESSIONS
WILL BEGIN IN MARCH 2021!**



Scan the QR code or join us at wilkinsburgcdc.org/strong-neighborhoods-committee/ to sign up to stay informed and participate in the planning process and share your input.

STRONG NEIGHBORHOODS BEGIN WITH YOU