

Appendix B: Airline Urban Design Charrette – July 21, 2005

The Airline Vision Team, in partnership with the Harris County Community & Economic Development Department, Office of Harris County Precinct One Commissioner El Franco Lee, and the Office of State Representative Kevin Bailey and architects from STOA/Golemon/Bolullo Architects hosted the Airline Urban Design Charrette, on Thursday, July 21, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. at Carroll Academy, 423 W. Gulf Bank Drive; Houston, TX 77037.

To announce the meeting to all interested parties, the Airline Vision Team distributed over 1,000 bilingual flyers to residents through door-to-door tagging, put inserts in monthly neighborhood newsletters, made announcements at homeowner and civic meetings, had newspaper articles written in “The Leader” and “The Northeast News”, left flyers at local stores, the Sunbelt Fresh Water Supply District, and Nitsch and Sons Industries. Approximately 80 community members attended the meeting. This is inclusive of residents, business owners, educators, and clergy. Bilingual individuals from the Airline Vision Team and HCCEDD were available to translate information to residents.

The urban design charrette process is the visioning/design element of the community planning process. It establishes a platform for a free flow of information and opinion sharing. Architects and urban designers from STOA/Golemon/Bolullo Architects assisted residents in envisioning a renewed future in Airline. Ideas and suggestions discussed the June 2005 community meeting were visually discussed at the urban design meeting. Architects drew pictures and design renderings of commercial developments, public facilities, streetscapes, sidewalks, park improvements, and traffic control improvements and other visual additions that participants requested.

To generate civic participation from youth and adolescents, a junior planners’ charrette was conducted during the urban design charrette. The junior planners’ charrette taught children about urban planning, enhanced their sense of community, and provided an opportunity to explore their immediate environment. Youth participants either participated in two activities: the collage exercise or *My Perfect Neighborhood*. During the collage exercise, children were divided into small groups and given poster board and necessary materials to illustrate what they want for their community. Everyone in the group had to agree on what was placed on the poster board. Upon completion, each group presented the collages to the other groups and discussed their general hopes for the future of the community. With *My Perfect Neighborhood*, children were given a map of the community to create a vision of their perfect neighborhood. Students were asked to draw houses, apartments, parks, schools and other items they thought would improve their neighborhood. The children were asked by the junior planner charrette moderator if *their* perfect neighborhood was safe, accessible, environmentally healthy, and affordable.

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Residents unable to attend the first meeting were given the opportunity to participate in the prioritization exercise with the top issues in each category that were identified at the June 2005 meeting.

The urban design charrette renderings are in the *Urban Design* chapter of the community plan.

Below are pictures of residents interacting with the architects and children participating in the junior planners' charrette.



Source: HCCEDD, 2005



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