

Watts Rising Leadership Council Notes

May 2, 2019 6pm-9pm

1. **Introductions:** Coming together for meaningful connections in and for Watts

1.1. John - Energizer /Intro

1.2. Jenny - Intro

1.3. Beth - Intro

2. **Ice Breaker** – Introduce yourself with one word that encapsulates Watts Rising - *Everyone*

1.1 **Words:** Phoenix Rising, True Collaboration, Diverse, Potential, Community, Growth, Grassroots, Incredible, Home, Collaborative Action, Excited, Ministry, Accountability, Investment, Hope, Inspiration New Dawn, Power, Education, Empower, Blessed, Faith, Participation, Amazing, Simulation, It Takes Teamwork to make the Dream Work, Watts is Worth It, Rising, Daring, Determination, Esperanza, Together, Challenge, Equity, Opportunity, Resilience, Connected.

3. **Centering Activity** - *Pastor Mike Cummings, Arturo Ybarra*

3.1. **Message from Pastor Mike** – Watts is worth it; Bring Watts together as a whole; The bottom holds the top up; One Watts one Love.

3.2. **Message Mr. Ibarra** – Ms. Ibarra has been in the community for over 35 years, he raised his family here and sent them to the local schools. Watts has experienced challenges in creating change: lack of real relationships, language barriers, etc. BUT change is something no one can stop. It has the potential to bring us the well-being we have always wanted for our community. Watts Rising is here and everyone has a role to play to make Watts Rising a reality. We must make sure this change is done WITH residents, homeowners, and institutions in Watts – that is our challenge.

4. **Goals for first 6 meetings** – *Beth*

4.1. **Meeting 1: Project Overviews**

- Introductions
- Overview of our process for the next six months
- Overview of the 25 projects that fall under TCC

4.2. **Meeting 2: Define Our Umbrella**

- Overview of our Collaborative Structure and Transformation Plans
- What is Watts Rising?
- What are the systems we are committed to changing?
- What constitutes change?
- How much change would constitute a win?

4.3. **Meetings 3: Mission/Vision**

- Create and adopt a mission/vision statement

4.4. Meeting 4: Governing Structure

- An overview of various Collective Impact Governing Structures
- Begin a conversation of how we will govern ourselves
- Identify the critical elements of our bylaws
- Elect a committee to work on By-Laws

4.5. Meeting 5: Governing Structure (cont.)

- Discuss and finalize our governing structure
- Make decisions regarding critical elements of our By-Laws

4.6. Meeting 6: By-Laws

- The By-Law Sub Committee will present the bylaws they have created for consideration, amendment and adoption

4.7. Meetings Generally:

- There will be general business to conduct over the next few months as we determine our structure
- A portion of every meeting will be dedicated to general business: i.e.: providing input on data plan, etc....
- Until a formal structure is determined we will govern by consensus

5. Concerns and Questions: What else do you want to make sure we address/discuss in the next few meetings to make sure that we are starting Watts Rising off on the right food? – Jenny, Beth

5.1. Communication:

- 5.1.1 How can we keep people up to date, and where are the projects at in their implementation processes? - *Neighborhood Council Member*
- 5.1.2 Keep the community informed – *Dr. Crouch*
- 5.1.3 How can we ensure better communication with each other and the community? – *Watts Neighborhood Council, Jackie Badejo*
- 5.1.4 Make sure we have the appropriate tools for effective communication and bi-directional communication. Are we using social media? – *Michael Rendler, Watts Clean Air*

5.2. Accountability;

- 5.2.1 It is important for people to see implementation; don't sell false hope! – *Mack Shorty, Watts Neighborhood Council*
- 5.2.2 No false promises. Don't turn sustainability into jargon – *Jackie Badejo*

5.3. Community Engagement;

- 5.3.1. How is HACLA working with project implementation partners to make sure engagement is happening, operationalized in the right way, and meaningful - *Virginia Lee, Partnership for LA Schools*
- 5.3.2. It is easy to fill a room with 100 people; how do we make sure we are reaching the people not in this room? - *Pahola Ybarra, WCLO*
- 5.3.3. Participation is key – *Wajeha Bilal, Build Plus Community Partners*

5.4. **Technical Assistance and Tools;**

5.4.1. Ensure we have access to support - *Neighborhood Council, Jackie*

5.4.2. Ensure appropriate bi-directional communication and community engagement tools are in place – *Michael Rendler*

5.5. **Ensure No Conflict of Interest in the Structure of the Leadership Council**

5.5.1. Why are the same project partners that are being paid to do the jobs also on the leadership Council table - *Linda Cleveland, Community Stakeholder*

5.6. **Selection Process**

5.6.1. How were project partners selected? HACLA to provide a historical overview of our process – *Fatima, Member Leadership Council*

5.7. **Modifications**

5.7.1. How “baked” are the projects? What modifications are possible? - *Fatima, member of Leadership Council*

5.8. **Growth and Change:** Our structure was provided in order to accommodate growth and change within the collaborative. – *Jenny Scanlin*

6. **Project Presentations – Beth, John, Project Partners**

6.1. **Jordan Downs Phase S2 (Project #1) – The Michaels Organization**

6.1.1. Providing affordable housing in Jordan Downs’s redevelopment (81 units) for up to 50% of the Area Median Income and below households. 1 to 4 bedrooms. Open Space. LEED Gold. May pilot virtual net metering.

6.2. **DASH Bus Electrification (#2) - LADOT**

6.2.1. Completely electrifying the DASH system in Watts. Replacing the Natural Gas and Propane buses with 10 new all electric buses

6.2.2. Increasing service from every 20 minutes to every 15 minutes

6.2.3. Altering the route based on resident feedback

6.2.4. **Question /Comments:**

- Can we also talk to Union Pacific about pollution along their lines? City is moving on litigation against UP and trying to get them to address their pollution.
- What are the GHG calcs for the buses now? What are they expecting their GHG reduction to be?
- What is generating the power for the electric buses?

6.3. **Mega Watts: Electric Car Share (#3) – WLCAC and Green Commuter**

6.3.1. Shared-Use Mobility Program

6.3.1.1. Electric vehicle car sharing

6.3.1.2. Electric vehicle van pooling

6.3.1.3. Three mobility hubs (Jordan Downs Retail Site, WLCAC, and a 3rd site TBD near the 103rd Street Train Station)

6.3.1.4. More than 20 new EV charging stations for Watts

6.3.1.5. EV Technician Training for up to 30 Watts residents

6.3.2. Questions/Concerns:

- Where's the third car share 'home' / location?
- Can rideshare this company transport children, do they have authorization?
- Watts Clean Air is working with LADWP to add 7 charging stations in Watts. Coordinate efforts.
- Who are you recruiting for your EV technician training? From where? Students should be residents of Watts.

6.4. Solar Watts (#4) and Energy Retrofits (#5) – RNLA, Pick My Solar, Grid Alternatives, Habitat for Humanity

6.4.1. +/- 50 New rooftop Solar Systems in Watts. NO cost to income qualified households

6.4.2. 45 local residents will receive paid training in Solar Installation. Combination of classroom and field training. Will receive a certification from Grid Alternatives. Referrals and access to employer networks.

6.4.3. Energy and Water Efficiency Upgrades for +/- 300 homes. No charge to qualified households. Key money saving measures: lighting, appliances, water heater, water fixtures. Direct install in residential units

6.4.4. Questions/Concerns:

- Why did the amount of energy upgrades go down?
 - We lost LIWP dollars. Trying hard to get that money back.
 - Prevailing Wage is being required but was not anticipated. Seeking a ruling on PW.
- Request to see budget. Provided in LC binder.
- What can be done if the roofs are not in good shape? Proposal to look at garages or brackets in the backyard. Also looking for other money to help fund roof repairs.
- Need to have a branded logo so they can be a trusted commodity.
- Can we create an internship around solar for younger kids?
- Will there be a report on actual savings? How will it be tracked?

6.5. Walk Bike Watts (WBW) (#6a) – HACLA on behalf of LADOT

6.5.1. Bike and Ped improvements to increase the safety and to promote walk and biking in the community

6.5.1.1. 5.3 new miles of bike lanes

6.5.1.2. 25 pedestrian improvements, including new signals and signal modifications, crossing beacons, leading pedestrian intervals, curb extensions and ADA ramps.

6.5.1.3. See the LC binder for specific locations.

6.5.1.4. Still doing feasibility analysis and extensive community engagement. Still opportunities to provide input on this.

6.5.1.5. Questions/Comments:

- Buffered bike lanes on 105th – residents put their trash cans out on the street, will there still be room to do so? How will this effect bike lane usage.
- Make sure we partner with the Department of Sanitation

- How is Measure W effecting this project?

6.6. WalkBikeWatts (#6b) - Department of Cultural Affairs

6.6.1. Creation of a 1.5 mi cultural trail with way finding signage and artistic elements installed throughout. Encourage walking in the community, and raising up and connecting cultural heritage in the community. Goal is to connect towers to 103rd station and other points of interest in Watts, utilizing existing infrastructure to connect watts arts to everyday life;, highlight Public art and way-finding via local artist, and showcase Watts history

6.6.2. Questions/Comments:

- How do you see that happening with the land being sold to developer around the train station? The community has an interest in getting the land back that was sold to TSA.
- Local Hire Strategy; How do work opportunities stay in Watts? – 30% Local Hire
- How do you plan to select local artist?

6.7. Walk Bike Watts (#6c) - We Care Outreach

6.7.1. Safe Passages work at Markham Middle School, 112th Street Elementary, Flournoy Elementary and Florence Griffith Joyner Elementary. Will recruit and train four safe passage workers that will act as Safe Passage Workers at each school.

6.7.2. Questions/Comments:

- Want valet parking at Grape Street Elementary. Need escort services there. Pastor Mike will work with the principal to find a solution.
- The Safe Passage work by We Care Outreach and UPI is KEY to making these projects meaningful. Without safety the other infrastructure improvements will not have their intended impact.
- We need more support for the safe passage work.
- Does Safe Passage work in the homeownership neighborhood? Yes – they have priority areas but they go wherever there is a problem or a large group of students.

6.8. Walk Bike Watts (#6d) - Urban Peace Institute

6.8.1. Safe passages work with more of an advocacy lens. Will work at four campuses: (1) Markham Middle School (2) Florence Griffith Joyner Elementary (3) Flournoy and (4) Grape Street. This project has four elements:

6.8.1.1. Creation of Active Transportation and Safety Action Teams.

6.8.1.2. Link these teams to the work that We Care Outreach is doing.

6.8.1.3. Train Law Enforcement Officers on Safe Passages Work.

6.8.1.4. Create two education events per year focused on Active Transportation.

6.9. Wilmington Great streets (#7) – Grant Housing and Economic Development

6.9.1. Urban Greening of 0.5 miles of Wilmington Avenue from 103rd Santa Ana. It will include 40 trees, 8 landscaped bump outs and Pedestrian/Bicycle Mobility Measures. Will do work that was identified as a part of the City's Great Streets Initiative.

6.9.2. Questions/Comments:

- The sidewalks in Watts are not to specification. How will we address this?

6.10. Weigand Elementary Trees and Rain Garden (#8) – From Lot to Spot

6.10.1. Project focus on creation of community designed green spaces – the addition of 43 native trees, 450 native plants, and 2400 sf of pervious rain gardens around Weigand Elementary for air quality (carbon sequestration) and shade. From Lot to Spot focuses on a community engagement and ownership model.

6.10.2. **Questions/Comments:**

- Make sure projects have a plan for maintenance and longevity.
- Urban watershed; can storm water recapture be incorporated into this project? Inquire about a Section 3 permit from the school.
- Can we add speed bumps on Weigand Ave.?

6.11. Watts Cool Schools (#9) – TreePeople/LAUSD

6.11.1. Create 4 cooler, shadier campuses by removing concrete and adding 112 trees with irrigation and adding approximately 80,000 SF of cool pavement. Will be implemented at the following campuses (1) Weigand Elementary (2) 96th St. Elementary (3) Florence Griffith Joyner (4) Maxine Waters Employment Center

6.11.2. Integral to the project is the involvement of the students who will participate in tree planting and tree upkeep. Students will have the opportunity to name any tree they plant. As a part of the project TreePeople will create Eco Clubs.

6.11.3. **Questions/Comments:**

- Can TreePeople connect at Jordan High with new class curriculum? Teacher if Fatima.
- Can TreePeople help bring resources to other schools in Watts?
- Community members expressed concern about old trees and trees falling down when it rained.
- Petition to replace old trees with new trees, what can partners do to assist in this matter?

6.12. Greening the Blue Line (#10) - TreePeople

6.12.1. Project focus is to create a tree canopy corridors along key segments of the first last mile of the 103rd St. Station of the Metro Blue Line. 200 trees will be planted in total. TreePeople's model focuses on getting community residents to plan the trees. Goal is to recruit over 300 volunteers to participate in 10 tree planting events and 19 tree care events over the course of the grant.

6.12.2. **Questions/Comments:**

- Trees not in Watts because of surveillance issues, trees are a signal of change in watts and hopefully can come is as heavy surveillance will no longer be needed
- Opportunities to work with youth welcomed!

6.13. Community Healing Gardens at Markham Middle School (#11) – Community Healing Gardens and LA Clean Tech Incubator (LACI)

6.13.1. Fund the operation of Community Healing Gardens at Markham Middle School for this next three years. Over the three years Community Healing Gardens in partnership with the students and families at Markham Middle School will:

- 6.13.1.1. Students will grow 7,000-10,000lbs of organic produce
 - 6.13.1.2. Distribute free organic produce to the families of Markham Middle School and the broader Watts community at Pop Ups throughout watts
 - 6.13.1.3. Students will grow 100 trees on site, which will be distributed to community residents for free
 - 6.13.1.4. Deploy various clean technologies in the garden. These will serve as a training opportunity in clean tech for students and families.
 - 6.13.1.5. There will be one Community Harvest Festival per year
 - 6.13.1.6. There will be 6 community garden days per year
 - 6.13.1.7. There will three community tours per year
 - 6.13.1.8. There will be educational workshops for adults and youth in gardening, composting, culinary arts and clean technology. Each workshop will occur 4 times per year.
- 6.13.2. Questions/Concerns:**
- Major community concern: Lead and Arsenic contamination of water, how can we address this before Watts becomes the next Flint?

7. Upcoming Events

- 7.1. **Community Kickoff Event** - This event will launch Watts Rising in the community. It will take place in July or August. E-mail Beth Rodin (beth.rodin@hacla.org) if you want to help in the planning of this event.
- 7.2. **Data Working Group** – If you are interested in participating in the Data Working group please e-mail Beth Rodin (beth.rodin@hacla.org) , Ivory Chambeshi (Ivory.Chambeshi@lacity.org) or Cynthia Gonzalez
- 7.3. **Community Engagement Working Group** – If you are interested in participating in the Community Engagement Working Group please e-mail Beth Rodin (beth.rodin@hacla.org)

8. Future Business & Wrap up / Comments

- 8.1 Can we save questions until after presentations next time?
 - Questions often overlap, waiting until after all presentations would save time and allow some questions to be answered
 - The consensus on this was yes, we should hold questions to the end next time.
- 8.2 Scheduling the Next Meeting:
 - Thursdays: OK
 - 6-9pm: Ok
 - Avoid graduation dates – schedule second Thursday of the month 6-9pm (best probable date for next meeting)
- 8.3 “We just need something to do” “Make sure we leave with something” (Sticks)

9. Parking Lot Comments:

- 9.1. Need to have LADP here. MUST address safety as a part of Watts Rising
- 9.2. Cannot emphasize enough that our priority should be safe passages and creating community
- 9.3. Experience at Weigand. Kaiser built gardens but they were not sustained. Devastating for the kids. Need to make sure this doesn't happen.

- 9.4. RFP from TreePeople was released, but not shared with the collaborative. Need to make sure info and opportunities are shared within the collaborative.
- 9.5. There is a water problem in Watts that needs to be addressed. Did LADWP fully address the problem 3 years ago?