

Headlines



Neighborhood Comments sought for “New Old Chicago” Plan

August 22, 2006

On **Tuesday, August 29, 2006** [Old Chicago](#) and [Douglas Park](#) area residents are asked to gather, provide input and react to redevelopment concepts for this neighborhood in the northwest corner of the city. The meeting is organized by Planning & Design Institute, Inc. from Milwaukee and the City of Rock Island [Planning & Redevelopment Division](#). Those interested should arrive **at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center, 630 9th Street**, by **6:00 p.m.** Light refreshments will be available starting at 5:30. The meeting will end around 8:00 p.m.



[Click here to view the contents of the Plan](#)

The Planning & Design Institute (PDI) team will present highlights of the final redevelopment concepts proposed for the area bounded by the Rock Island Parkway (Centennial Expressway) on the north and west, 12th Avenue on the south and 12th Street on the east. The design concepts will focus on urban design issues, incorporating public infrastructure items such as streets, sidewalks and corridors, and promoting housing and commercial renovation and new construction.

Specific examples include:

- *Remove deteriorated houses on 10th Street between 5th and 7th Avenues and replace them with new homes*
- *Enlarge Denkmann Park and change the street pattern in the area*
- *Promote new commercial development on 11th Street between 3rd and 8th Avenues*
- *Retain and renovate existing homes*
- *Create new homeownership opportunities*
- *Expand the King Center and develop a new park across 9th Street*
- *Support Habitat for Humanity’s new seven home development on 8th Street*

[Mayor](#) Mark W. Schwiebert said, “The City is committed to strengthening and enhancing our older neighborhoods. This redevelopment plan is another step in accomplishing our long-range goals of providing quality housing and services meeting the needs of citizens in a range of income levels.”

A steering committee was established in July 2005 to work with the consultants on plans for this area. The committee toured the neighborhood by bus with the consultants in August. The consultants have also interviewed numerous residents and business owners in the neighborhood to help formulate redevelopment concepts. The initial concept plan was presented to the public on November 16, 2005. The plan has now been revised by PDI and is ready to present to the City Council, Steering Committee and public to see if it accurately reflect the community’s vision for the neighborhood’s future.

“The City encourages the public to attend this meeting as it is critical for gaining community support and energy to implement the plan,” said Alan Carmen, Planning and Redevelopment Administrator. “With 7th Avenue improvements underway now and more planned next year, the City stands ready to kick start new investment in this neighborhood.”

This area was the subject of planning efforts in 1993 (Old Chicago Addition Plan), 1994 (Douglas Park Neighborhood Plan) and 1999 (Making “Cents” of 11th Street), but none of the plans focused so intensely on urban design components.

Members of the steering committee include: Frankie Atwater, Tim Brinkmann, Terry Brooks, Alan Carmen, Dan Carmody, Greg Champagne, Mary Chappell, Ivory Clark, Ron Day, Jill Doak, Roberta Evans, Brian Hollenback, Faye Jalloh, Jerry Jones, Rev. Donald Johnson, Steve Moller, Tyrone Orr, Sheila Rind, Kevin Schoonmaker, Greg Ward, Pat Ward, Nicole Watson-Lam, David Weiner, and Rev. Joseph Williamson.

Inquiries about the upcoming meeting should be addressed to Alan Carmen, Planning & Redevelopment Administrator, at 732-2900 or carmen.alan@rigov.orgT.