

14. COMMUNITY SUPPORT

The project's Development Team held its first community meeting on October 28th, 2014 to reintroduce the development project to the community. Greater Bible Way Temple had tried to develop senior housing at the site since 2011, so the community was familiar with the church's vision. Over 30 members of the community including several elected officials attended the meeting and showed overwhelmingly positive support for the project.

Those in attendance at the meeting expressed extremely positive feedback for the overview and the design of the project, as presented by the architect. The community and elected officials expressed their excitement and even gratitude to the team for embarking on this project to fill in the vacant lot, , to provide affordable housing to neighborhood seniors and to supplement the housing with supportive services to help seniors age in place and integrate with the surrounding community.

Questions posed by the members concerned the next steps to move the project forward, which the Development Team answered with clarity, explaining the process of securing financial support from the City and the State, the competitiveness of these programs, and the tentative timeline of the project. Attendees wanted to hear when they or their aging parents could start moving into the units.

Attendees also inquired about employment opportunities which the development might create. The Development Team indicated that the General Contractor for the project would likely hold a job fair and would seek to hire from the project zip code and surrounding zip codes in compliance with the Neighborhood Benefit Strategy.

The community members also wanted to know what future projects the Church would undertake in partnership with Gardner Capital. Both the Church and Gardner Capital expressed an interest in future partnership endeavors.

November,
2014

GREATER BIBLE WAY SENIOR APARTMENTS
Local Unit-Based Operating Subsidy Proposal

In addition to the community members at the meeting, many government officials and local leaders attended the meeting and expressed their strong support for the project. These included State Representative Vanessa Lowery Brown, 44th Ward and RCO Leader Willie Jordan, the Chief of Operations from the Office of Senator Vincent Hughes, a representative from the Office of Councilwoman Jannie Blackwell, and a representative from the Office of Councilman Curtis Jones.

As the project moves forward, the Development Team will continue to hold meetings to keep the community members updated and gather their input, especially with respect to the finalization of design and pursuit of zoning approvals.

Please find attached the flyer and sign-in sheet from the community meeting, letters of support from community groups and government officials, as well as a signed certification evidencing commitment to engage the community throughout the development process.