GROWING COMMUNITY THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS: THE COMMUNITY AS EXPERT

“Allowing communities to decide what they want to be and do rather than allowing developers and experts to determine what they should become.”

Paul Dreher, Livability Solutions, Newport, Vermont

http://livabilitysolutions.org/
PLACEMAKING & COMMUNITY BUILDING

“Setting the stage and then preparing for the actors, the script, the audience…and the reviews....”

Setting the stage...

- Visioning and capacity building
- Community code writing
- Community building and place-making
- Perceived challenges as placemaking opportunities
PROCESS

- Meetings
- Charrettes
- Tours

INVolVEMENT (Unlikely Partners)

- Community Members
- Planning and Zoning (Local Government)
- Business Community
- Schools

Working Documents
LISTENING TO THE COMMUNITY
On the ground…

- The power of the pen in the hands of the community…

“Start with the map, end with the map.”
IMPROVED ORDINANCES-FORM BASED CODES? COULD IT WORK HERE?

Create a Framework for:
- Multi-Purpose/Multi-Use Destinations
- Better Pedestrian Experience
- Reinforcing Historic Fabric
- Great Placemaking

Benefit to:
- Community
- Municipality
- Businesses

Future with Current Code

Future with Form Based

Single Building as Series of Bays

Not This

This

AIA NEWPORT
STREETS AS PLACES

• Great placemaking.
• Increased street variety.
• Sustainable storm water management.
• Better pedestrian experience.
• Spur new businesses.
• Safer streets.
• Shorter pedestrian crossing.
• Decreased vehicular speed.
• Back-in angled parking.
• Increased on street parking.
NEIGHBORHOOD GARDENS, URBAN FARMS, SUSTAINABLE/LOCAL AGRICULTURE

• GROW NEIGHBORHOODS
• ADDRESS FOOD INSECURITY
• INSTILL HEALTHY FOOD HABITS
• CHAIR & YARN BOMB
• BUILD COMMUNITY!
“The best way to seed place is to put out food”
William H. Whyte

Everything tastes better
When you shorten the distance between the field and the fork.
When you eat Local
You can taste the Love
FORMING PARTNERSHIPS
ACTIVATING THE PLACE
COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP
COMMUNITY BY DESIGN
COMMUNITY DRIVEN ACTION INITIATIVES

- GREEN STREETS (STORM WATER AS AMMENITY)
- LOCAL FOOD SYSTEMS
- LAND VALUE TAXATION (LOCAL & STATE POLICY)
- CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT STATUS
- COMMUNITY BUILT DISTRICT HEAT FACILITY (LOCAL BIOMASS)
- COMPREHENSIVE (ILLUSTRATIVE) MASTER PLAN DOCUMENTATION
GROWING COMMUNITY
Placemaking/Economic Outcomes

• New Businesses (direct indirect jobs)
• New restaurants
• Front Porch Revolution.
• Green Streets!

• City/Community Farms (urban farming.)
• Growth friendly Codes
• Sustainable water, waste water and storm water systems.
LESSONS LEARNED

• No heroic leaders...instead community ownership and shared leadership
• Workshops-find community leaders and meet often.
• Build/Grow unlikely partnerships
• Keeping diverse people engaged throughout the process
• From vision to policy to community building and place making
• Capacity building - community building and the community as the expert
FROM “CAN’T HAPPEN HERE”
TO “ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE”