

# **WREN** The Washington Regional Equity Network

Regional Collaboration Meeting Summary  
Thursday, May 3, 2007, 10a

## **Meeting Participants:**

Brookings Institute--Dave Garrison; Cafritz Foundation--Rose Ann Cleveland, Miyesha Perry; Community Foundation--Kathy Whelpley; Coalition for Smarter Growth--Stewart Schwartz; Collaboration DC--Bill Schechter; Good Jobs First--Karla Walter; Leadership Greater Washington--Debra Redman; National Center for Smart Growth Research and Education (UMD)--Gerrit Knapp; Prince Charitable Trusts--Kristin Pauly; Chesapeake and Potomac Regional Alliance--Gregg Edwards; Vradenburg Foundation--George Vradenburg; WREN--Don Edwards, Aieda Solomon

## **Summary:**

Don opened the meeting introducing WREN, and turned the meeting over to Kathy, who had prepared and distributed the document, "AFTER EGW--Ideas for Potential Next Steps." Kathy reviewed the EGW process and debriefed on the decision process resulting in a decision to not move forward on a full scale regional visioning effort. Meeting participants engaged in conversation about the lessons learned from EGW and how to move forward in some areas where consensus had been reached. Participants described ideas on how to reframe EGW and strategically target opportunities for action/impact at the local and jurisdictional level. Discussion also included how to structure work after EGW, and WREN's involvement in the process. Next steps include drafting a more detailed proposal outlining a work plan, which will be presented and discussed at the next meeting, TBD.

\*\*\*\*\* To **review meeting materials** and **listen to recordings** of this or any other WREN meeting, or to **RSVP** for a meeting, access our website:

<http://www.washingtonregionalequity.net/networkmeetings.html>

### **A. Reframing the Approach**

1. Concept
  - i. Frame around a concept, rather than a "visioning" process and concretely define the "value" proposition or favorable/unfavorable outcomes wanted.
  - ii. Create a regional vision, but implement/act locally.
  - iii. Review national examples/best practices in creating a new work plan (ie. NY, FL, Reality Check, Bruce Adams' work).
2. Operating Model
  - i. Create a clear understanding of what resources and tools are needed and who will provide them.
  - ii. Draw from institutional resources (ie. Area Universities, Institutes, Foundations) for analysis needed, etc.
  - iii. Use member-based organizations for logistical support (ie. conveners, etc).
  - iv. Establish a clean funding source, without dependence on member-based organizations for support to move forward.
    1. Gain Federal funding in support of work plan (ie. Gerrit's work with EPA)
  - v. Create a network of trusted collaborators (experts on overarching key issues) to move forward with a work plan that will include
    1. overall theory of moving forward, including elements of network
    2. overarching issues, ways to track convenings around these issues
    3. identification of regional key players and individuals to use as resources

3. Leverage regional leadership in work plan
  - i. Promote “regionalism” and use current development/planning as examples for leadership to showcase commitment to “regionalism” (ie. development near Metro Stations, congestion pricing, increased tolls, transit investment, etc).
  - ii. Create “regional stars” in leadership, back them as innovators, and “infect” the region jurisdiction by jurisdiction by highlighting leadership on regional equity issues, while keeping track of where progress is being made.
  - iii. Host convening of DC, MD, VA planning directors to talk about regional planning, specifically relationship between spatial arrangement / development and social equity (talk to
  
4. “Energy and climate change” as a potential framework to promote “regionalism” (ie. Green energy initiatives in Arlington, Fairfax, Montgomery County)
  - i. Link “energy” to “social equity” – complex idea
    1. Regional Level- Use “cost of doing business” --daily costs that “bad”/inefficient energy investments will place on communities, specifically low income families. Increased need to place low income communities in energy efficient places, as energy costs rise.
    2. National Level- National Infrastructure investment needs to be as efficient as possible, as demand increases on federal spending over time.

**B. Decisions Made:**

1. Kathy and Stewart will revise proposal and DRAFT a work plan, to be discussed at next meeting.
2. WREN will host meetings and create a list serve for the group.

**C. Next Steps:**

1. Next Meeting: **TBD (Date, Time, location)**. In person and via teleconference (1-712-432-3900 passcode: 3912563#). Contact Aieda to RSVP at (202) 905-9747 or by email, [Aieda@washingtonregionalequity.net](mailto:Aieda@washingtonregionalequity.net).