

DRAFT

CamConnect Executive Committee September 3, 2009 Summary Notes

Members Present: Bill Whitlow, Jean Mouch, Stephen Singer, Dawn Howell, Jeff Brenner, and Bernadette West.

The reviewed and group approved the August 6 Summary Minutes.

Stephen Singer provided members with an Executive Director Update. Stephen met with Sandy Johnson/CRA. They are now providing CamConnect with foreclosure and mortgage delinquency data for the city at the zip code level on a quarterly basis. Stephen reported on his attendance at the August 11th kick-off event organized by the Camden Census office on the 2010 Census where he spoke. The event which was attended by Mayor Faison and Councilwoman Dana Redd received good media coverage and afterwards the Census staff offered to arrange an informational session for CamConnect members. Stephen will explore this further—including the possibility of funding for the event. Dawn Howell noted that the Camden Empowerment Zone would be interested in working with CamConnect if they do something with the Census. Jean Mouch noted that Campbells is doing an event which might serve as a venue for something on the census.

Stephen reviewed progress made on creating a catalog of available data on the website. He noted that the plan is to eventually post data that will be in a searchable format and which can be manipulated as members need it. He reviewed the work CamConnect is doing with Heart of Camden—an analysis of alternatives to the DRPA proposed light rail station locations in Waterfront South. This work should be very useful in providing an example of the possibilities of what CamConnect can do for other agencies using GIS analyses. Sean Brown has received access to the election data through OPRA from the county board of elections. Aaron and is scanning the data and preparing it for future reports.

CamConnect continues to look for additional funding opportunities for the organization. This has been hampered somewhat by loss of access to TechSoup which was essential for access to other services such as Grant Station. Jeff Brenner noted that the Cooper Foundation could serve as the entity and asked Stephen to follow up with him on this. It was suggested that the Knight Foundation may be a good source of support for creating a successor to Camden Matters. Stephen gave a quick membership update and noted attempts to renew CRA as a member. Bill Whitlow agreed to follow-up with RU Library about getting access for CamConnect. Checks have been received from CPAC. The computer purchase has been held up because of the need for another round of signatures. The upcoming NNIP meeting is in October and the group approved travel for Stephen to attend.

Dates were set for upcoming CamConnect meetings through the end of 2009:

October 6 Executive Committee

November 5th (11:00) Board Meeting

December 4th Data Fair

At the upcoming Board meeting the new Executive Committee will be announced and they will determine dates going forward for 2010.

Stephen noted that set up of QuickBooks was taking longer than anticipated and that the budget will be made available soon. He has reached out to Accountemps for a Quick Book expert to assist with the set-up.

Jeff noted that Cooper administration has indicated that over the course of the coming year or so they would like to formalize and alter the relationship between the health system and CamConnect. Although details and a time table have yet to be worked out, the change will involve CamConnect becoming its own 501(c)3 and a more explicit service agreement between the two organizations. Jeff noted that Cooper will continue to do grant and fiscal management as well as the yearly audit for CamConnect.

Stephen discussed the possibility of adding a staff position. He spoke positively of the work of CamConnect's summer intern—Aaron Truchil. He proposed that CamConnect hire Aaron for one year. Jeff Brenner made a motion to hire Aaron Truchil for one year and the motion was seconded by Jean Mouch. The motion was approved with one abstention (Bernadette West). Jeff noted that creating a position at Cooper always takes time and that Stephen should explore whether it might be easier to bring the person on as a consultant for one year.

In other business, Stephen reported that CamConnect was completing an application to the Nicholson Foundation to examine all forms of social support spending in the city in a way that would allow detailed geographic and demographic analysis of funding flows across agencies. Stephen noted that he has spoken with Dr. Robin Turner (new Chair, Department of Public Administration) about her efforts to establish a Social Compact "DrillDown" analysis of consumer spending potential in Camden and possible roles for CamConnect in data management. Dr. Turner has suggested that CamConnect serve as the local data management entity for the project. Finally he noted that he has not heard anything further from Walter Rand Institute regarding a possible for CamConnect in doing their GIS analyses as discussed at the last Board meeting. Bill Whitlow will follow-up on this with them.