



CAMConnect
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Date: May 8, 2008
Re: Executive Director Update

MEMBERS

Members – We have 52 members who have made a contribution since October 1, 2006. In addition to a focus on renewals for existing members, I will try to increase the membership to 75 by the end of 2008 (working in conjunction with the Governance & Membership Chair). All CAMConnect members are encouraged to continue to recruit new members.

CONFERENCES

MAC-URISA – This organization is a group of public agencies and nonprofits in the mid-Atlantic who use GIS in their work. Their annual conference was in Mt. Laurel in early April. I was recruited to be on a panel discussing GIS implementation in non-profits. The panel session was sparsely attended, but overall the conference was interesting.

NNIP Chattanooga – I attended the semiannual meeting in Chattanooga from April 15 through April 18. CAMConnect is unique among the 30 NNIP partners in our use of a membership model. I spoke with some other organizations about how they generate fee for service revenue. Most of the partners are largely funded by regional foundations. Much of the conference time was focused on topics like neighborhood housing markets.

PROPOSALS / REVENUE GENERATION

Camden Empowerment Zone – We submitted a proposal to the Camden Empowerment Zone in response to an RFP for website development assistance (up to \$1,000). This proposal is available on the Members Section of the website and focuses on a redesign of our site to better organize information. We have received confirmation of these funds and now need to develop an appropriate scope of services for a website designer. Information from the Members Survey will be helpful to identify needs. Board members are also encouraged to review the website and offer suggestions.

New Staff to Enhance CAMConnect's Capacity – I circulated a draft of this proposal at our September Board meeting and also at the Members Meeting. This proposal is a further development of "Option 4," which was selected by the Board last May as the preferred strategic direction for CAMConnect. This proposal seeks funding to support another staff member for CAMConnect with technical expertise in database development. The next step is to begin circulating this proposal to foundations. William Penn will be our first target.

ONGOING CONTRACTS

Education Law Center – I updated the handout I prepared last year summarizing key data on the school system. ELC distributed this information at its Board of Education forum on Saturday, April 12. I am also working with ELC on ways of summarizing funding issues for the district and the extreme challenges faced in Camden’s middle and high schools.

Health Data - CAMConnect is included in the Camden Coalition of Healthcare Providers grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (New Jersey Health Initiatives) for 3 years at up to \$20,000 annually. We have updated data from all 3 hospitals through July 2007 and have begun further analysis of this patient-level dataset.

Other Projects – A number of members who responded to the survey indicated that they may have potential projects. These members will be contacted for more information on their plans.

OTHER INFORMATION

Updated Camden Facts City and neighborhood reports – The citywide report was released in advance of our Board meeting on February 29. After the meeting I made some modifications and updates to include 2007 housing sales and education data. Subsequently, I updated the website to include a page for the entire report, along with separate pages for each of the topic areas. So, for example, the Education section of the report has its own page with a link to the education section of the report, summaries of key points, and links to related information.

The next steps in this process are to reach out to media members with a press release and to distribute the report to paid members. Also, I will work on preparing neighborhood level reports in the next few months.

Website updates - Average unique visits – September (124), October (136), November (178), December (132), January (147), February (133), March (156), April (219), May (205)

SCHEDULE

Monday, May 19 – Camden Revitalization Forum (organized by Camden Community Development Association). I will attend and have a table with CAMConnect information.

Tuesday, June 10 – Straight from the Funder Conference (organized by Camden Empowerment Zone). I am leading a session on “Technology based mapping, research, and reporting”

Exec Committee Meetings 2008

Monthly, first Thursday, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
1/3, 2/7, 3/6, 4/3, 6/5, 7/3, 8/7, 10/2, 11/6

Camden EZ Conference – 6/10

Board Meetings 2008

Friday, February 29

Thursday, May 8 – note date change

Thursday, September 4