



## **ST ELIZABETHS EAST ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**

**APRIL 1, 2015**

LOCATION: R.I.S.E. DEMONSTRATION CENTER (2730 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR., AVE., SE)

TIME: 1-3PM

DIAL-IN: 866-793-8038 (8466591 PARTICIPANT; 7322642 LEADER)

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### **MINUTES**

#### **1. General Project Update**

The St. Elizabeths East team updated the Advisory Board on upcoming special events and programs that benefit the community coming to St. Elizabeths East. The Broccoli City Earth Day Festival, along with Program Partners, and Interagency Events provide a way for residents to enjoy the space and see the different ways the space can be used. Tracking progress and evaluating the impact of these programs is the next step.

As broader initiatives are developed on the campus, the Advisory Board urged the St. Elizabeths East team to be clear about goals and measures of success.

#### **2. Eco-District Presentation**

Alexis Goggans of the Office of Planning provided an update (enclosed) on the St Elizabeths East/Congress Heights EcoDistrict (see the enclosed update). Despite remarkable progress over the last decade, the city is not yet meeting its Sustainable DC Plan goals for waste diversion, access to healthy food and clean waterways. The establishment of the St. Elizabeths-Congress Heights EcoDistrict



creates the unprecedented opportunity to meet these goals at the neighborhood level and help drive current redevelopment projects underway at St. Elizabeths East.

The St. Elizabeths-Congress Heights EcoDistrict will coordinate stakeholders with disparate interests and scales of impact, increase economic competitiveness through a cutting-edge sustainability infrastructure, and articulate a municipal policy agenda with laws, incentives, and processes that support sustainable neighborhood development.

Projects anticipated to be explored during the implementation phase of the EcoDistrict include: daylighting 1.5 miles of Oxon Run Creek; supporting infrastructure improvements on St. Elizabeths East campus, including the development of a pilot program to employ an innovative storm water management infrastructure for the historic buildings; and conducting a district energy feasibility study to assess a cogeneration project for Ballou High School and nearby Congress Heights. All of these capital improvements will build upon existing information technology, workforce development and sustainability programming currently underway at the Gateway DC Pavilion, as well as programming to be offered at the R.I.S.E. Demonstration Center, once construction is complete.

### 3. Feedback /Comments

The Advisory Board inquired about the role of the West campus and potential partnership opportunities. Ms. Goggans emphasized that the goal is to improve the life of the community and to create a cohesive vision for a just, resilient, sustainable neighborhood.

The Advisory Board inquired about why the District was selected. The District of Columbia joined the Target Cities Program, a group of North American cities committed to becoming global leaders in sustainability through neighborhood-scale projects that emphasize environmental performance, social equity and economic growth. EcoDistricts, the Portland, Oregon based nonprofit behind the



program, made the announcement of the new partnership at CGI America, an initiative of the Clinton Foundation.

Target Cities is a two-year partnership of seven development projects across five North American cities including the District of Columbia. It is designed to amplify and accelerate neighborhood-scale economic and environmental restoration and create replicable models for urban revitalization. The three District-based Target Cities projects underway are the St. Elizabeths-Congress Heights EcoDistrict, the Downtown DC EcoDistrict, and the SW EcoDistrict.

