***Data Stewards Meeting***

***MINUTES***

**Session:** Monthly Meeting of the Data Stewards / Sarasota County Community Data Collaborative

**Date:** Monday, April 9, 2012

**Location:** School District Offices, Landings Complex

**In attendance:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Neighborhood** | **Organizational Affiliation** |
| *Michael Beauchemin* | Isles of Palmer Ranch | Elder Care |
| *Jim Bennett* | Sawgrass | Venice City Council |
| *Laurel Corrao* | Indian Beach / Sapphire Shores | SCOPE; New College |
| *Nancy DeLoach* | Southfield / Bee Ridge | Sarasota County Government |
| *Tim Dutton* | Tahiti Park | SCOPE |
| *Kari Ellingstad* | McClellan | Community Health Improvement Partnership |
| *Alton Everett* | North Sarasota |  |
| *Harrison Fox* | South Venice | South Venice Civic Association |
| *Lynette Herbert* | Cranberry/North Port | Sarasota County HHS |
| *Nita Hester* | Country Club Ridge of North Port | City of North Port GIS |
| *John Lambie* | South Gate/Phillipi Creek | Venice City Council |
| *Bob Mahlman* |  |  |
| *Richard Martin* | near Ringling College | Coalition to End Homelessness |
| *Tom Matrullo* | Lake Sarasota |  |
| *Colleen McGue* | Central-Cocoanut | Venice City Council |
| *Roy Pinchin* | Sarasota Springs | Sarasota County School District IT |
| *Allison Pinto* | Central-Cocoanut | SCOPE; Banyan Sprout |
| *Terry Redman* |  | Friends of Sarasota County Parks |
| *Francis Scheuer* |  |  |

To begin, the group reviewed the graphic that has been created to describe the development of the Community Data Collaborative & related platform:



The meeting agenda was presented in relation to the four quadrants of the graphic:

1. Introductions
2. Developing **Platform / Technologie**s
3. Update re: collaboration with the Urban Institute
4. Developing **Datasets / Data Stewards**
5. Review of recent School District efforts
6. Plan for other Data Stewards to prepare datasets
7. Clarifying **Quality of Life Indicators**
   1. Update on Community Data 2.0 Sessions
   2. Update on “Life is Good in Sarasota County” community story campaign
8. **Reflection** on Community Data
   1. Update on Community of Practice for Resident Community Changemakers
9. Announcements

What follows are notes of the presentations and conversation associated with each section.

1. **Introductions**

* Everyone introduced themselves by name, neighborhood and institutional /associational group affiliation (as a way of reinforcing our neighborhood-based and cross-scale/cross-sector orientation).

1. **Developing Platform/Technologies**

***Update regarding collaboration with the Urban Institute –***

* The contract with the Urban Institute (UI) is being finalized, in order to create a preliminary neighborhood-centric community data platform for the Sarasota County community. The Urban Institute has been provided with the preliminary site architecture, in order to create a multi-layered map that for each neighborhood that includes a variety of:
  + **Boundary systems** (e.g. zip codes, census tracts / block groups / blocks, voting / police precincts, school attendance zones)
  + **Demographics** (e.g. total # of residents; #/% by age group and race/ethnicity)
  + **Qualitative data** (e.g. photos, videos, stories)
  + **Indicators of Well-being** (e.g. traditional community indicators re: health, learning, civic involvement, social well-being, economy, environment)
  + **Assets** (e.g. people, places, organizations)
  + **Intentional change efforts** (e.g. community-building, services/programs, policies, research/evaluation)
  + **Reflections** (e.g. questions posed and answered by residents; by other entities)
* We as data stewards now each need to identify and ready local datasets that our own associations/institutions already have available, so that these datasets can be uploaded into the online community data platform. This requires address data, in order to organize data by neighborhoods.
* As soon as possible (before September 2012), it will be important for resident groups to “inhabit” several neighborhood pages, in order to see what works and what needs to be added/eliminated/improved.

***Comments and questions from Data Stewards:***

* South Venice has developed community ratings of priorities, and is aware of county layers of roads, swales, water; community ratings of priorities were generated when county sent out 8000 post cards and build on a 2000 study.
* Who decides what the neighborhood boundaries are?
* This will happen in 3 ways:
  + - 1. Some boundaries have already been established by city governments (e.g. North Port neighborhoods were defined as part of the comprehensive plan).
      2. Some boundaries are already recognized by cities / county because resident groups came together to define their own neighborhood boundaries and then alerted their city / county (e.g. Sarasota neighborhoods).
      3. Residents will be able to individually define their own neighborhood boundaries using the community platform.
* In the Sawgrass neighborhood of Venice there are lists of retirees and an active email list and social activities – so this neighborhood could be [ripe] for involvement in the collaborative / online platform; this neighborhood does not relate to the Comp Plan neighborhoods – it is important to note which kinds of neighborhoods to aggregate vs. separate because they are entirely different; there is an interest in making sure the data we see is related to the appropriate [neighborhood boundary]
* What about distinctions that don’t have clear boundaries, like North and South County?
* Perhaps the online platform could include a survey of users of the platform, asking: “Are you satisfied with the established boundaries?”
* If the online platform is used to examine neighborhoods block by block then users could see, for instance, where there are “Books for Children” available or being received.
* What will the ultimate outcome be? It seems important that it be heading toward action – defining priorities. Data can kill a lot of things, so we should be limited in what data to focus on. A big problem is the lack of priorities in decision-making – from neighborhood up to county. For example, 200 miles of swales.
* It would help to ask: What are the big decisions to make? What data/information is most needed in order to make each of these decisions?
* Could the Urban Institute help us identify which data points matter most?
  + The local community and collaborative are responsible for identifying which data matters most to our own community; the collaboration with UI will make it possible to connect with other communities across the country who are part of the UI National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership.
* Data should come from residents so as to be neighborhood-centric.
* It would be helpful to review what decisions have been made using what information.
* Will this platform be able to model?
  + The online community data platform will provide a reflection of the local community through data, but at this stage it is not being designed with the capacity to model future possible states.
* Who else would be helpful to have as partners of the Community Data Collaborative?
  + It will be useful to include planners and GIS experts because they consider modeling.
  + Neighborhoods staff – in cities and county – Ryan Chapdelain; Jane Grogg
  + NEST citizen groups
  + Chuck Henry of Environmental Health
  + Property appraiser
  + Jim Harriet’s operation – they map every road in the county
  + Parks and Recreation people
  + Alternative newspapers – Pelican Press, Observer, Tempo – they all have agendas
  + Neighborhood newsletters and CONA newsletter
* It will be important to make it easy to download data from the online platform into excel spreadsheets.
* It sounds like there will always be fuzzy edges and boundaries – like “kids on edges of neighborhoods” or income differences.
* Could use the outcome targets, goals/objectives in the Comprehensive Plan and other plans as a way of identifying priority datasets to include in the online platform – like the measures identified by the Community Alliance.
* County is working on an asset list for all buildings – every building in the county will be connected to GIS – Sharon Shulte manages this work – tying to this could be a way to organize data by neighborhoods.
* If the purpose is to support folks on big decisions, then the way we phrase the question builds the usefulness of the data – e.g. questions to prompt the contribution of stories relating to healthcare or transportation.
  + Note: The purpose is not only to support “big” decisions, but everyday decision-making and action too.
* With the homelessness coalition, there is a client / service database – agencies do data sharing; it is used at an inter-agency scale; this [helps to ] address value. For example: when considering housing needs and future housing needs, what if we could see how the policy overlays, and how the policies create constraints?
* The platform should be data driven and also human story driven. It should be flexible and constantly changing.

1. **Developing Datasets**

* The School Board IT Department has been working with the SCOPE data team this month to convert its existing dataset (consisting of 54,000 records) so that it can be organized (and then mapped) by neighborhood.
* Roy Pinchin described the process to give other Data Stewards a sense of what the process will entail when each of us works to convert our various datasets. Roy explained that the process required several cycles performed over several days, as formatting inconsistencies were identified. Eventually it was possible to run the data through the Excel macro program successfully, so that each line of data (in this case, each student record) was assigned a corresponding neighborhood.
* Each Data Steward is asked to identify data that can be converted to neighborhood data to be uploaded into the collective community map.

***Comments and questions from Data Stewards:***

* Nita Hester noted that there may be a more efficient process using GIS. The SCOPE data team will follow up with her to explore this possibility and report back to the Community Data Collaborative at the next meeting.

1. **Clarifying Quality of Life Indicators**
   1. **Online gathering of perspectives**: Colleen McGue shared a powerpoint presentation of the “Life is Good in Sarasota County” community story campaign.
      * **Purpose:** to further the identification of Quality of Life indicators that matter most to citizens of Sarasota County.
      * **Methods:** “Life is Good” stories are gathered on video, coded by domains of well-being, and story-teller home addresses are mapped.
      * **Quick summary of findings to date**
        1. A total of 35 stories contributed so far. Of these,

- 22 refer to culture/recreation

- 19 refer to social well-being

- 13 refer to health / fitness

- 11 refer to the natural environment

- 6 refer to learning

- 5 refer to transportation

- 4 refer to civic well-being

- 3 refer to age

- 3 refer to the built environment

* + - 1. It is noteworthy that the quality of life domains that are referred to most often in stories (culture/rec, social, health, natural environment) are not currently measured as much as some of the other domains.
      2. Caveats
      * Only 35 stories gathered so far – not enough to confirm patterns.
      * Prompt was not worded consistently by those videotaping the stories.
      * Not coded by the story-tellers, which is more ideal.
      1. Questions:
* Who are potential partners in the most frequently identified domains (culture/rec, social, health/fitness)?

Response: Seems like important partners would be from Parks and Recreation and Friends of Sarasota County Parks.

* How could this process best contribute to the efforts of the Community Data Collaborative?

Response: We could ask residents to contribute Life is Good stories specific to particular domains that are of particular interest to our organization. For instance, ask residents to submit stories about the built environment.

Note: At this preliminary stage, as we are identifying which qualities of life matter to residents in order to identify corresponding indicators, it makes sense to continue asking about “Life is Good” moments that are not specific to a domain.

* Who is interested in partnering to further develop this story-gathering process?

Friends of Sarasota County Parks would like to be part of identifying qualities of life that matter- could ask park patrons to submit Life is Good stories.

* 1. **Community Data 2.0 Sessions:**
* Rather than county-wide convenings, sessions specific to local municipalities (North Port, Venice, Sarasota) are now taking place. Participants contribute perspectives on Qualities of Life that matter most to them and are invited to get involved in the Community Data Collaborative.
* North Port session was on March 15 – co-hosted by City of North Port and SCOPE.
* Venice session scheduled for May 18 – co-hosted by City of Venice, Venice MainStreet, Venice Area Chamber of Commerce and SCOPE.
* City of Sarasota will be invited to co-host a session – invitation will be extended at City Commission meeting on April 16.
* Citizen perspectives will be compiled and reported when the series of sessions is complete.
* Data stewards are encouraged to spread the word about the sessions and participate when possible.

1. **Reflections on Community Data**

* Monthly sessions of the Community of Practice for Resident Community Changemakers (facilitated by SCOPE) are an opportunity for any residents of Sarasota County to explore and reflect on data about their home neighborhood and to consult with residents of other neighborhoods. The next session is Friday, April 27.
* If there are other opportunities for people to gather around community data, particularly oriented around neighborhoods, please share details.

1. **Announcements**

* Next meeting will be held on Monday, May 21 from 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Location TBD.
* The group decided that next month’s meeting will feature data stewards and data sets related to the natural environment.