

# Lancaster City Downtowners

September 25, 2006

## Minutes

**Facilitator:** Rod Houser

**Attendance:** approximately 22 people

**Topic:** Review/Discussion of Beacon Hill Village Founder's Manual

### 1. Introductions

All persons in attendance briefly introduced themselves. Michael Sprunger, newly selected staff person for Lancaster Live gave a bit of background on this newly organized group and their goal of increasing home ownership in downtown Lancaster.

### 2. Review of Beacon Hill Manual—Rod highlighted features of the Beacon Hill Founders Manual. Notes for this review are attached. Following this review and a few questions for clarification, the group divided into smaller groups for discussion and reactions to the Beacon Hill model. Groups responded to these questions:

- Suggest a most important “nugget” from what you have learned about Beacon Hill Village
- What parts of this plan excite you?
- What parts give you concern?
- How would you prioritize the scope of services in the Beacon Hill plan should some sort of similar village concept emerge for downtown Lancaster?

### 3. Responses from groups included the following:

*“Most important nugget” and “parts of the plan that excite you” tended to be similar types of responses and are grouped together in this summary:*

- Affordable fee structure
- Staying connected; belonging to a community
- Access to services such as handyman, lawn care
- Synthesis/sharing of group assets
- Community serves as support group
- Access to meaningful cultural events and continuing education
- Opportunity to exert political influence to bring about change; improve city where you live
- Giving and receiving in community
- Options for continuing care in home
- Close to events
- Opportunity to develop new friends
- Alternative to corporate retirement communities
- Diversity
- Able to walk to most things
- Access to trusted resources
- Impromptu opportunities to get together

*Concerns*

- Membership seems expensive
- Membership is limited to elderly
- What happens when ones resources are depleted?
- Costs involved in organization
- Many staff people
- What assistance should member experience dementia?
- Security issues in city environment
- Lack of green space
- Our group may talk too long and delay getting on with a solution for Lancaster
- Options for family/children visits if living in city
- Where would we get seed money?
- Our group needs to define a focus and mission statement
- How soon should we look for healthcare alliances?

### 4. Next Steps—Ad hoc steering committee will meet October 11 to review findings at this meeting.

*Recorded by Rod Houser*