

Royster Site Neighborhood Steering Committee
Meeting Notes for 2/5/07 meeting

Meeting was held at Pinney Branch Library at 6:00 PM attended by approximately 12 neighborhood members, Alder Larry Palm and Supervisor Stoebig. Alder Palm reported briefly on the presentation of the Union Corners Site and its lessons regarding the Royster site.

Alder Palm and Supervisor Stoebig introduced Rich Graham of the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture. Mr. Graham oversees the environmental assessment and clean-up activities associated with agri-business based ground water and soil pollution. The Royster site has been the focus of an ongoing effort to test, monitor and remediate pollutions associated with the manufacturing process for a number of years.

Mr. Graham provided a verbal report of testing, monitoring and clean-up activities to date at the site as well as copies of site maps that provided the locations of points of pollution and monitoring. In short he indicated that Royster had attempted to comply with requests by the State to remediate pollution in a variety of ways. There continues to be monitoring of wells by an environmental engineering firm employed by Royster. There is still contamination in the wells however there is no new contamination being added to it and the level and types of pollutants are at a fairly low level and in all likelihood will not prevent the safe redevelopment of this site.

One point of uncertainty regarding this however is the fact that the soils and groundwater located under the buildings on the site have not been tested and it is likely there will be additional testing, remediation and monitoring required at these locations. The site has nearly exhausted its maximum lifetime limit of \$400,000 in clean-up cost sharing grants and the company will remain responsible for any remaining clean-up activities the cost of which is unknown until the buildings are razed.

Alder Palm indicated that it is unlikely the city would allow the buildings to be torn down until an alternative plan for the site was approved. Mr. Graham indicated that the best way to move this site ahead in terms of redevelopment would be for the buildings to be torn down and then have the remaining testing and remediation completed thus eliminating the unknown factors for future developers of the site.

Supervisor Stoebig provided a written summary and verbal report of his investigation into the Department of Natural Resources oversight on environmental assessments, clean-up and monitoring regarding leaking underground storage tanks that had leaked petroleum products into the soil and ground water on the site. The DNR still has monitoring wells at the site however the source of leaking has been removed and the necessary clean-up has been completed. The DNR has not closed its file.

Finally, there has also been some testing of storm/surface water at a retention pond located on the site. The detention ponds may also require additional clean-up costs associated with the sediments within them.

Dave Porterfield, Tom Stoebig and Larry Palm reported on initial fund raising efforts to provide the necessary funds to pay for a market study that needs to be done in conjunction with the planning effort by City planning staff. Dave submitted a funding request to Anchor Bank for \$4,000 that is under consideration. He also investigated the County BUILD program and City neighborhood planning grants. The City application is due in April. The County has not yet published its due date for the BUILD program. Dave indicated a need for assistance with writing these two grants. Larry contacted Agrium regarding a contribution who indicated they were not interested at this time in providing funding. Tom has been in touch with MG&E but no formal request has been submitted. Presently an estimated goal of \$15,000 to \$25,000 for the cost of the market study however no detailed budget has been established. A fiscal agent for these contributions will also need to be identified.

There was additional discussion and questions regarding environmental issues and future land uses by other neighborhood residents in attendance.

Respectively Submitted:

Dave Porterfield