



**Recharge East Winter Garden Community Meeting
Meeting highlights
June 15, 2015**

In attendance:

City of Winter Garden representatives:

Michael Bollhoefer, Tanja Gerhartz, Kelly Carson, Kathy Rathel, Mike Kelley, George Brennan, and Anthony Dawkins

Winter Garden City Commissioner: Bobby Olszewski

CRA Advisory Board Members:

Larry Cappleman, Bob Battaglia, Charlie Roper, Sandy Schupp & George Spigener

West Orange Habitat for Humanity: Patrice Phillips, Jennifer Yon, and Jim Gustino

St Luke's United Methodist Church of Windermere: Lynette Fields & Adam Hartnett

The King's Academy: GayBrielle Crawford

Plus many Winter Garden residents

City Manager Mike Bollhoefer addressed the group and talked about how the last meeting ended with trying to coordinate all the different groups. Mr. Bollhoefer had a presentation showing the City's priorities then asked the other groups represented to come up and discuss their projects. He explained that Winter Garden has been doing redevelopment for the last 25 years with a specific focus on historical East Winter Garden. Potential partners working in East Winter Garden:

Community Redevelopment Agency

City of Winter Garden

Winter Garden Art Association

Orange County

East Winter Garden Community Development Corp.

Orlando Board of Realtors

Winter Garden Police Athletic League

Crealde School of Art

Orange County / Winter Garden Library

Westside Tech
Health Organizations
and many different Churches and organizations

Mr. Bollhoefer also stated there would be a Code Compliance officer focusing on East Winter Garden to clean up areas and work on condemnation and demolition. The City could now build homes on vacant City owned land with the possibility of 10 to 15 Single Family homes over the next 2 to 3 years and rehabilitate approximately 14 over the next year. He also discussed a master plan for East Plant Street from Winter Garden to Ocoee to bring in new businesses and jobs.

Questions from residents were regarding any plans to have affordable business locations as most could not afford the rent in downtown Winter Garden. Also discussed was if the City was going to have a Housing Authority to control housing rent prices from some new landlords.

St. Luke's United Methodist Church spoke of focusing their efforts on a long term change with an asset management based approach to help low-income families.

Police Chief George Brennan spoke of the progress the Police Department has made in East Winter Garden and Officer Dawkins who works closely in that area.

Habitat for Humanity spoke of their plans for four homes and working with homeowners for rehabilitating 25 – 30 more homes.

Anthony Hodge, pastor for Finding the Lost Sheep, stated to have a lasting change all areas must be covered – from drug and crime prevention to getting the people in the community involved in helping themselves instead of letting outsiders do all the work.

The CRA board explained that money from the CRA would be used to support community projects but only for Winter Garden jurisdictional areas.

Kings Academy stated their goal was to bring quality education and affordable child care to East Winter Garden. Their emphasis is on education for families and communities for ownership and to build pride in their neighborhoods.

City Manager Bollhoefer suggested another Community Meeting in 3 months but have smaller meetings to help the different organizations focus ideas. It was suggested having one representative from each group meet to organize a working plan.