

Jump Start Plan X Team Meeting 9/28/07

Present: Tony Carvajal, Matrell Hawkins, Kenya Washington and Dorothy Bland

Kenya Washington, who owns a wedding planning and design firm, shared her experiences as a small business owner. She suggested the group consider the co-location service provide a 15-minute workshop on what licenses you need, small business tax info, etc.

Here's a quick summary of the objectives discussed for the co-location concept: to provide a one-stop shop for small businesses to get answers and do business transactions.

TC asked where are we with co-location? Dorothy Bland has made some calls to library and several potential resources, but no date finalized.

DB announced that she is resigning and stepping away from the team due to other commitments. She shared that Nolia Brandt, Cynthia VanLandingham and Judy Jones-Colston notified her that they couldn't make the meeting.

Matrell Hawkins said she was thinking of stepping away as well and shared she was planning to open two restaurants.

Tony Carvajal mentioned he had been working with Independent Minds Group and recently got a call to help re-energize the group.

TC said the co-location idea is "solid" and suggested the group turn it over to the city or someone else to implement. He said he thought the city's Renaissance Center was supposed to be a one-stop shop for business. He noted that Nolia Brandt also has talked with Bob Bischoff about the box car village as a potential home.

If it were implemented, the group discussed what was a reasonable timeline. DB said she thought it was important that each KCCI team have some tangible deliverables within a year of March 2007.

MH suggested that co-location could be done next year and suggested the one-stop shop have industry specific mentors, i.e. – attorney for legal advice, marketers for marketing help, accountants for accounting help, etc.

TC asked what the success target would look like. Among the ideas discussed:

- Connecting small businesses with key services
- At least 10 co-location events in a year.
- Participation of at least 50 or 100 small businesses in a year.
- Retain X number of partners.

Consensus was there's a need to better define what the partners should do and who will do the work.

DB asked MH what the status of the incubator was and she replied she's not prepared to put incubator plan out till the co-location idea is implemented.

By the close of the meeting, the consensus was to disband the group. TC said he would check to "see how to get the co-location idea running" and follow up with Michael Parker and Mike Pate.