

Community Invited to Participate in North Omaha Development Project Meeting on July 19

This is the fourth in a series of weekly articles focused on the economic future of North Omaha. Each article will feature the comments of a North Omaha Development Project steering committee member.

Learn more about the project and provide additional input at the next meeting on July 19 at Omaha North High School, 4410 North 36th St. The meeting will begin at 6 p.m. in the Viking Center. An ADA accessible entrance is located at the northeast music hall door.

North Omaha Development Project steering committee members and consultants will give a much-anticipated update on North Omaha business investment strategy at a July 19 community meeting. But just as important, they will listen.

The meeting's purpose is to share preliminary concepts based on initial community input and market analysis and to give the attendees an opportunity for additional input. "I think all the stars are in alignment for things to happen in North Omaha," said City Councilman Frank Brown, a member of the executive committee of the North Omaha Development Project steering committee. "There is a renewed vision and purpose for growth in North Omaha. I encourage participation at this meeting."

Community participation has been vital to the success of the study phase of the North Omaha Development Project, an initiative of the Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce, corporate leaders, elected officials, African American business leaders and the North Omaha community. It was launched to encourage economic growth in this important sector of the city. North Omaha residents and business people have offered insight and feedback at various neighborhood discussion groups, through surveys and at a community information meeting in April.

Residents and business people are again invited to share ideas and thoughts at the upcoming community meeting, which begins at 6 p.m. at Omaha North High School's Viking Center. Areas earmarked for potential future community and business investment opportunities will be presented at the meeting, said Dennis O'Neal, who serves as North Omaha Development Project steering committee co-chair. O'Neal is also the executive vice president of First National Bank.

"We've had a lot of input from North Omaha residents, business people, steering committee members and the community from the very beginning of this project and we need that to continue," O'Neal said. "This is our last scheduled community meeting before we start to finalize the study. It's important that community members take the chance to contribute to the discussion."

Project consultants as well as many of the North Omaha Development Project steering committee members will be on hand to answer questions.

Community input will be reflected in the final business investment strategy, which will be announced in early October. The plan will include recommendations for infrastructure improvements, community development opportunities and housing initiatives—all of which are geared towards creating job opportunities.

The North Omaha Development Project is a focused commitment of the Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce, corporate leaders, elected officials, African American business leaders and the North Omaha community to make strategic investments in North Omaha. The study area is Sorensen Parkway on the north, Cuming Street on the south, 16th Street on the east and 52nd

Street on the west. For more information, email info@projectnorthomaha.org, visit www.ProjectNorthOmaha.org or call (402) 346-5000.