

I. Welcome

Katrina Young welcomed new members to the group and asked all stakeholders to introduce themselves and share what they hope to get of the process for the new members benefit. Answers included:

- Would like to understand what definition of family has been and what it will be and to know how I can shape this process
- Would like to discuss how family definition addresses safety and quality of life
- Would like to know how enforceable the definition of family is
- Would like to redefine family to deal with problems in our neighborhood
- Would like to limit the number of people who can live in a home, because the infrastructure cannot hold up
- Would like this process to address public health concerns of high occupancy
- Would like a better understanding of our zoning laws and why they are not working

II. Recap from December 12, 2005

Katrina Young summarized the events of the December 12, 2005 Stakeholders Group.

- Staff provided background information on the definition of family
- Stakeholders Group listed issues associated with the current definition of family
- Discussed the process and guidelines
- Determined criteria for evaluation

III. Categorize Issues

Stakeholders completed an exercise to determine how each issue should be categorized. The group by consensus agreed to the following categorization.

Occupancy Limits

Should we consider limiting the types or number of extended family members that are considered family?

We should consider limiting the number of working adults living in a house together when redefining family.

Structure nuclear family by defining 2 adults with “x” number of children. And then stating how many other family members can stay in the home.

We should consider a ratio of bedrooms to bathrooms as an indicator of how many people should live in a house together.

Limiting the number or types of extended families that can live together is not a feasible option because there are so many different living arrangements out there.

We should tie the square footage of the bedrooms to the number of occupants, not the square footage of the house, because sometimes additional residents sleep in family rooms, living rooms, garages, etc.

We should tie the square footage of the house to the number of people living there.

Enforcement

Should the Health Department, Fire Department, Police Department be involved in this process since there is likely a health and safety concern regarding occupancy?

We need enforcement at night, or over a 24 hour period. Enforcement currently is occurring during the day, but violations are occurring at night.

Secondary Impacts

Are there currently limitations on the number of vehicles a household can have?

Secondary impacts of the number of people living in a house are the problem.

We should use the amount of trash generated by a house as an indicator of violations of the family definition.

IV. Staff Presentation

Kristen Neilson discussed in general terms what is family?

- A group of related individuals
- A group of persons that share common ancestry
- A social unit living together

There were some example given of the different type of family units such as

- Traditional (father, mother, three children)
- Extended Family (father, mother, 20 year old and 8 year old children and ailing parent) Grandparents raising grandchildren
- Single Parent with 2 children and an Adult sister
- Siblings consisting of 2 adult males, 2 adult females
- Unrelated adults (3)

The questions staff raised during the presentation were:

- 1) In considering the definition of family is the problem with the relationships of people sharing a home?
- 2) Do we care if or how the people sharing a home are related?
- 3) What is the government interest in family composition?

V. Comments/Q&A

After the presentation, the stakeholders had an opportunity for comments and to ask questions.

Issues that stakeholders raised:

- 1) Although many stakeholders were in agreement that the issue is one of occupancy, there was concern expressed that relationships also had an impact on occupancy. More specifically, the group felt that boarding houses (where individuals are not related) should not be included as a use permitted in a single family zoned district.
- 2) It was also expressed that within our current definition of family there are no limits on the number of relatives living together that the relationships create an occupancy issue. One example given was that 4 couples related with 8 to 10 children were all living in one residence. This amount of people in one residence was perceived to be excessive.

The questions raised after today's discussion are:

- 1) Some of the occupancy concerns are the same concerns as how individuals are related?
- 2) Can there be different definitions (layers) of families depending on neighborhood locations?
- 3) Can we consider household unit instead of family to limit size?

VI. Next steps

The next meeting is scheduled for January 23, 2006 at 5:30 pm in room 280. Stakeholders were asked to bring any definitions of family from other jurisdiction that they have. Staff will also research several jurisdictions family definition. There will also be a review of court cases.