

## Minutes for Gen X Subcommittee Meeting - 12/9/15

Meeting was called to order by subcommittee chair Keisha Biggs-Fink @ 11:35am.  
In attendance: Keisha Biggs-Fink, Anita Dinwoodie, Kerry Brock, Charlie Shipman.  
Absent: Michael Carter, David Levy

Charlie moved to approve the minutes of our last meeting.

Anita moved and Charlie seconded the appointment of Kerry as subcommittee secretary.

Keisha suggested a subcommittee goal statement that would read:  
***Identify & attract new residents while retaining existing residents and investing in key local assets.***

Discussion turned to support of our goal statement including enhancements to school campus and town center like sidewalks, additional services and eco-friendly housing development.

Audience member Chris Spaulding suggested “Open Space” or “Smart” development is the preferred term over “cluster” housing. He said the optimum scenario for town population growth would be 250 to 300 families buying new homes on currently undeveloped property. That number includes open space/smart developments.

Keisha said she loved living in a “Live, Work, Play” community in Orlando, FL, called Baldwin Park. The City of Orlando bought a shuttered military base and worked with a developer to construct a ground-up environment with a downtown center and multiple housing choices including live/work spaces, townhomes and single-family homes on larger lots.

The committee identified Weston strengths and weaknesses as follows:

### Strengths:

Schools, natural beauty, community pride, smaller population that allows for greater community involvement, home value per dollar, access to Westport beaches, local farms, land trust and conservancy open spaces, access to mass transit, a central business district, a social environment welcoming to alternative families, Weston’s roots as a community of artists and writers reflect its understated lifestyle

### Weaknesses:

Underdeveloped business district, lack of sidewalks around school campus and the central business district, town website, lack of town branding, image of Weston as a “safety” community for buyers who began real estate shopping in Westport, weak cultural identity, image of high residential taxes, perception of slow housing sales,

opposition to progress, changing demographics of school populations, spotty cell phone service.

The committee discussed consensus-building strategies like encouraging friends to attend meetings and setting up a Facebook site specifically for our subcommittee.

The committee recommends these action items for researching and attaining its goals:

- Create a data subcommittee of experts to collect and interpret information for the SPC. Charlie Shipman offered to be a member and will reach out to Michael Carter to determine his interest.
- Schedule presentations from land developers, newcomers, WPS administration, BOE members, real estate agents, telecommuters and marketing experts who can match their statistics to the unique attributes of a Weston homebuyer.
- Meet on a weekly basis at 11am Wednesdays starting January 6 and include 20-minute presentations from the professionals named above.
- Develop short, mid and long-range goals.

Keisha will finalize our goal statement with action items and forward to SPC Committee Chairs by Friday, December 11.

Meeting adjourned at 12:48pm