Dear Kendra,

After engaging with several key stakeholders over the past 6 months in the Greater Englewood neighborhood we would like to present the below recommendations to CMAP and the City of Chicago for the Green Healthy Neighborhood Land Use Plan.

These recommendations were captured on behalf of the Resident Association of Greater Englewood.

Please note, additional recommendations may be forthcoming.

Should you have any questions do not hesitate to contact us at 866-845-1032.

Thank you,

Asiaha Butler
Co-Founder/Interim President R.A.G.E.

cc: Demond Drummer, Teamwork Englewood
cc: Samantha Robinson, CMAP
First Round of Recommendations for the Green Healthy Neighborhood Land Use Plan

Retail
- facade improvement of existing businesses along major corridors, using SPIF funds: from 55th-74th/Halsted; 59th/Dan Ryan-Hamilton; Ashland; Damen
- utilize vacant lots in commercial districts, specifically 63rd/Halsted, to be used for mobile vendors (e.g. farmers markets and small retail)
- use windows of vacant commercial buildings as for business advertisements and art
- identify vibrant district that serves as downtown; encompasses traditional and modern retail:
  - 63rd/Ashland
- coordinated business hours
- prohibit additional leasing of non-commercial businesses in retail spaces
- zone and coordinate businesses by type (i.e. restaurant, clothing, liquor, electronics)
- establish an SSA within the downtown area

Infrastructure [Green]
- parkways/greenways along Halsted and Ashland; aligned with trees
- landscaping along train tracks
- blocks with at least 40% or more vacant lots should be developed into community land reuse projects
- amending the City of Chicago Adjacent Lot Program to allow homeowners to acquire/purchase any vacant lot on their block of residence
- sidewalk and street improvement
- increase lighting (solar panel)
- 63rd/Halsted vacant lot for outdoor events and activities
- Promote coordinated development of “Englewood Center” as our neighborhood’s downtown, including a new Harold Washington Plaza that includes housing, retail businesses and community gathering spaces.
- Adopt a lot program for local schools to use for gardening and agricultural plans related to curriculum
- Develop additional Sitting / Pet Parks and/or playground/play lots

Transportation
- rapid transit bus line along Ashland
- updated bus shelters with digital marquee of ETAs of buses, particularly along Ashland, 55th, 63rd, and 69th Streets
- transit oriented development along/near Metra rail and stations, that should include ‘stop and shop’ retail (i.e. drugstores, grocery)
- secure and enhanced ‘park and ride’ lots at major CTA train stops such as 63rd and Ashland (Green line)
- 63rd/Dan Ryan Red line stop should have a safe, well lit crosswalk for pedestrians trying to access the station from the south side of 63rd
- well lit, pedestrian friendly viaducts of freight and commuter trains; also update and enhance outward appearance of viaducts using community artwork and greenery
- shuttle service connecting CTA and Metra rail stops for commuters
- expand streets to incorporate dedicated bike lanes, particularly along ‘soft’ streets such as Racine Ave., 67th St., 75th St., etc.
Culture
- 62nd and Halsted St: revitalize historical firehouse landmark (restaurant/museum)
- establish an Englewood Walk of Fame on sidewalk in Englewood downtown district (63rd/Ashland or 63rd/Halsted corridor)
- public art displays at major intersections 63rd/Wentworth, 67th/Wentworth, 67th/Halsted, 69th/Dan Ryan or at Masonic Temple; Bethel All Nations Church
- Billboards, banners and signage, including a Welcome to Greater Englewood Arch (one at 63rd and Dan Ryan, and 63rd/Ashland)
- Create education and information trails near schools and “living museums” in public spaces
- Renovate local lounges in order to create a nightlife atmosphere along 69th corridor
- Establish a theatre or art based district in collaboration with KKC

Housing
- create an Englewood Historic Homes program to preserve historic buildings and homes, such as bungalows, Queen Anne’s, Victorians, and Greystones, particularly in East Englewood, which have become vulnerable to railroad expansion
- create affordable, mixed-income housing using existing homes
- promote green construction and renovating of houses dated of 10 years and older
- encourage mixed-use, mixed-income housing in near the downtown area (69th/Ashland), cultural district (63rd/Halsted), and transit (63rd/Dan Ryan)
- partner with agencies such as NHS and the NSP program to help renovate and update houses in ‘fair’ condition, and for seniors

Food
- permit farmer market vendors along/within the cultural district near KKC (63rd and Halsted)
- offer “Green Cart” permits to fruit and vegetable vendors with mobile carts to sell in high need areas (i.e. food deserts) and near transit stops such as the Redline and Greenline
- work with the City of Chicago to incentivize having a community [food] garden on the block, such as a tax break for homeowners on that given block
- work with local organic food distributor, Goodness Greenness, to open a small, fresh foods store or kiosk
- Micro-business for home cooked meals
- Increase availability of a large variety of fresh or organic foods
- Creation of produce carts and kiosks to increase access to healthy foods
- Development of a co-op for producing and selling better quality food

References
Re-imaging Cleveland – Ideas to Action Resource Book – 2011

Food, Fitness, Health for Englewood – Quality of Life Strategy No. 5 Implementation Work Plan -2008

Englewood NCP - Quality of Life Plan - 2005

New Englewood Village – Land Use Perspective Update by Quadrant – 1999
Figure 1 - Abandoned Play lot 68th Green

Figure 2 - Firehouse - 62nd & Halsted - Historical Landmark
Figure 3 - PEACE Community Center - 65th & Peoria

Figure 4 - Flo Jo Garden - 71st & Green
Figure 5 - Abandoned Leon's Restaurant – 59th & Racine

Figure 6 - Community Garden - 63rd & Wallace
Figure 7 - Abandoned Green Line Stop - 63rd & Racine

Figure 8 - Abandoned Masonic Building - 65th & Green