The following attended a meeting at the CDC offices on Tuesday, March 3, 2014:

Paul Richard, Isaiah Kuperstein, Tyson Domer, David Kosene, Al Polin, Leigh Riley-Evans, Bernard Mickle (MFCDC Public Ally)

Our discussion focused on:

1. Organizing, distilling and encapsulating the thinking from our Visioning Session of January 24 and our Board meeting of February 20 as the basis for solidifying our Values and Mission internally.

2. Developing an outreach strategy in order to test how our Vision resonates with our constituent communities and elicit ideas, opinions and concerns as we shape our work plan for reuse of the Temple.

The Board must reach a consensus on *Values, Mission, and Vision* so that we may succinctly present our thinking to the neighborhood and community at large as the next step toward building wider community consensus for our project.

What are our **Values**? What are the principles that inform our Mission and Vision?

What is our **Mission**? What is our unchanging goal in restoring the Temple?

What is our **Vision**? How do we see the building's overall role in the lives of people and communities?

**Values**

The core values that have consistently emerged in all of our discussion so far have been stated using the following words and phrases:

*Honoring our diverse cultural heritage and memories to make them relevant today.*

*Building strong neighborhoods.*

*Collaborating to create a unity of purpose through diversity.*

There may be more Values for us to consider…

**Mission**

In all of our discussions, there is a belief that our mission in restoring the Temple must serve some greater purpose. Restoring the building is not an end in itself. In a sense we are engaged in a social enterprise. An excellent definition was put forth that merits restatement:

*A social enterprise is an organization that applies commercial strategies to maximize improvements in human and environmental well-being, rather than maximizing profits for external shareholders. Social enterprises can be structured as a for-profit or non-profit, and may take the form of a co-operative, mutual organization, a social business, or a charity organization.*

If the statement above is indeed our purpose, then our mission, discussed at great length, needs to be clearly stated. The Mission statement proposed by Rabbi Dennis resonated for the Board and needs to be reviewed and finalized.

*The restored Temple will become integral to our neighborhood and city as a place to remember, learn, educate, connect, convene, host, and welcome, serving as an inclusive center and model of inspired citizenship to our diverse Indianapolis community.*

Is this indeed our Mission?

**Vision**

Our Vision is what we will focus on. Our Vision today may change as we constantly seek to stay relevant to the communities we serve, or as we strive to set goals with other partners over time. Inherent to our vision, we must always keep in mind to deliver on the promise of our mission and always strive to be sustainable through not only a constant stream of revenue, but also via innovation that will insure continuing relevancy in our communities.

We need to reach consensus on what our Vision for the building is today. A number of points have been made:

*Stabilize the Temple building in order to arrest ongoing decay and blighting influence in the neighborhood. Remove non-historic additions to reveal the elegant and stately historic architecture so that majestic spaces may inspire future thinking.*

*Restore the Temple to honor its history, the stories emanating from those who used it, and work with like-minded institutions to remember, learn and educate about the heritage the building represents.*

*Create a home base to form a new collaborative platform for our communities and faith-based institutions to connect, welcome, convene and include to foster better understanding and tolerance among people.*

Do our Values, Mission and, perhaps most importantly, Vision statements provide the proper starting point for effective engagement with our communities?

**Plan of Action – Outreach**

Presently, we must work alongside the various communities we hope to engage and serve in order to refine and develop a *shared vision* that resonates with residents, citywide stakeholders, potential partners, and funder alike. Communities include:

* wider Mapleton-Fall Creek neighborhood
* Indianapolis Jewish community
* anchor institutions - eds, meds, arts & culture
* faith-based institutions, including the Mid-North Church Council

Are there other communities that need to be included?

*We need to succinctly describe our core group's interest in heritage, context, stories, identity (not just history, which is dry and boring) and 'package' it as a value statement.*

*These interest areas also present tangible opportunities to discuss cultural and racial diversity, immigrant populations and experiences, and tolerance issues that are relevant to all communities, but especially cogent given Mapleton Fall Creek's socioeconomic history.*

*Our conversations often migrate toward this topic. Although these concepts resonate with our group, the critical path to incorporate them into our work plans has not yet emerged. Our job now is to succinctly describe these ideas and desires, and determine the extent that they resonate with our communities. Do these value statements allow us to use any or all of these concept as one of our main jumping off points during outreach conversations?*

*It's important that as we go out into the community, we are leveraging the thinking we've already invested in defining our Values, Mission, and Vision so our outreach helps us to better understand our communities and refine our specific work plans.*

*We must remember to avoid repeating the baseline thinking and visioning we've already accomplished and refine our work plans. We must also remember that a significant component of our future work will involve financing a $2M+ restoration of the Temple building.*

A key outreach tactic will involve asking a series of directed questions that will help us to begin conversations and refine our vision (see Vision statements above), thus directly informing our work plan. Some core questions where we must ask our communities to help discern our "sweet spot" include:

*What's your perception of the safety of the MFC neighborhood? Are you afraid to travel to destinations or attend events there?*

*Given the communities we are engaging, is our reach too broad, too narrow?*

*What is the extent of our desire to give voice to the (unvoiced) narrative history of the Jewish community in Mapleton-Fall Creek? In Indianapolis? In the state?*

*What is the extent of our desire to give voice to the narrative history of the Black community in Mapleton-Fall Creek? In Indianapolis? In the state?*

*What honors history, memory and heritage? What is the extent of our desire to provide a platform for broader humanities and socioeconomic issues?*

*What is the extent of our desire to influence the end use of the Temple building?*

stabilization --> sale/lease for any use (better than nothing, eliminates blight)

stabilization --> sale/lease for directed/controlled use (heritage/humanities vision)

stabilization --> restoration for any use (difficult to fund without specific end use)

stabilization --> restoration for directed use (implies partnership/collaboration)

stabilization --> restoration for new heritage/humanities organization

*What will make people say "let's go to The Temple?"*

**Introductory Community Meetings – Accomplished & Planned**

August 8, 2013 – Mapleton-Fall Creek Neighborhood Association

October 27, 2013 – Indiana Jewish Historical Society

January 23, 2014 – Dorcas Society of Redeemer Lutheran Church

January 24, 2014 – Temple Heritage Center, Inc. Visioning Session

February 11, 2014 – Shaarey Tefilla Congregation

February 24, 2014 – All-Neighborhood Meeting of Midtown Indianapolis, Inc.

March 13, 2014 – Mapleton-Fall Creek Neighborhood Association

March 16, 2014 – field trip to Temple Israel in Lafayette, IN

March 18, 2014 – Jewish Community Relations Council

April 1, 2014 – Historic Meridian Park Neighborhood Association

April 3, 2014 – brainstorming with the Liberal Arts School of IUPUI

**Community Visioning Meetings – Planning**

Our schedule and format for our wider community forum has yet to be planned…

* How many sessions should we plan?
* What is the best format for such sessions?
* Who should be invited to attend?
* What is the best way to reach them?
* When is the best time to hold such forums?
* How much advance notice is necessary?