



THE GIBSON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION, INC.

P. O. Box 8

GIBSON, NORTH CAROLINA 28343

November 14, 1979

Ms. Kay Lush
ICA Co-ordinator
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Ms. Lush:

Attached is a copy of the Institute of Cultural Affairs eighteen months report of accomplishments of their project in the Gibson community.

Many benefits have been derived from this project since its beginning. During the week of the Consult in June, 1978, hopes and dreams were expressed by the many citizens attending. Since then, many of these plans have become a reality. Constructive planning, improved communications, strong motivation, correct channels of information, and strong, effective leadership, all provided by the very capable ICA Staff, have created a progressing rural community. This area is now recognized in many parts of the world as an example of what can take place in a small forgotten area if someone cares enough about the human race to extend their helping hand; and if the people care enough to reach out and pull together to regain their community spirit and pride.

These past eighteen months have brought programs, resources, helpful information, projects, celebrations, training and many other useful services into our community that we would not have had without the ICA project. We are very proud to have had a part in the progress of our community these past eighteen months, along with the ICA staff.

Very truly yours,

Sadie Odom, Secretary

Gibson Community Development Association, Inc.

Gibson elects woman mayor

GIBSON — By a vote of 80 to 76, Sadie Lynch Odóm apparently became the first woman mayor of Gibson Tuesday — and the first woman mayor in Scotland County.

The election brought 157 of the town's 185 registered voters to the polls, the largest turnout in town history.

According to the unofficial returns, Mrs. Odóm defeated Albert Bowden for the mayor's job.

Elected to the town commission were James A. "Jimmie" Bowden Jr. with 86 votes; Carolyn Smith Gibson with 69; Thomas P. Hogan with 33; Frank W. Lea Jr. with 96; and Charles Liles with 85.

The News and Observer, Raleigh, N. C.
Wednesday, November 7, 1979

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE FIRST 18 MONTHS OF THE GIBSON HUMAN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT ORGANIZED ACCORDING TO THE 13 PROGRAMS OF GIBSON'S COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY REFORMULATION PLAN CREATED IN JUNE 1978.

I Toward Basic Economic Self-reliance

1. Crossroads Industries Complex

- Scotland Wood Products, Inc. - secured in July 1978 with help from the County Chamber of Commerce, employment 46 - payroll \$300,000.
- Industry Relocation Plan - local Gibson resident has agreed to build \$150-200,000 building for Scotland Wood Products - relocation and expansion will raise employment to 80-100 and payroll to \$500-700,000.

2. Employment Skills Agency

- On-the-Job training with CETA funds for 6 traditionally hard to employ Gibson males
- Summer Work Experience(8 weeks at minimum wage) for 11 Gibson youth(CETA funded)

3. Gibson Development Corporation

- Gibson Community Development Association incorporated with 152 adult members and an 11 person Board of Directors - granted tax-exemption by the IRS
- \$142,300 grant to the Gibson CDA from the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation for economic development and downtown revitalization.
- \$42,420 in direct contributions from within Gibson and Scotland County in cash, goods and services
- Over \$500,000 of private capital invested or committed to local economic enterprises
- 108% increase in jobs available in Gibson between July 1978 and July 1979(from 75-176)
- ICA staff residence - Old school teacherage given by the Scotland County School Board to the Town of Gibson for two years to serve as rent-free staff residence - renovated outside by the School Board and inside by Town Council funds and volunteer community labor

4. Downtown Reclamation Scheme

- N. C. State University School of Design gives free consultant services and uses Gibson as training opportunity for graduate students
- Seven vacant buildings renovated through private investment
- Old depot donated to the Town by the Seaboard Coast Line RR - renovated and landscaped as Gibson Station Community Center
- 3 vacant "eye-sore" lots cleared
- mini-park created with flowers and benches
- 4 old vacant buildings demolished

5. Small Businesses Enterprise

- New restaurant
- New laundromat
- New second-hand furniture store
- New open-air market area
- New CDA office
- New convenience store and grill to open in December

II. Toward Community Cohesion

6. Community Identity Project

- Two Labor Day Parades and Family Fun Days(each drew over 3000 persons)

- Family Christmas Celebration, with second one scheduled
- Valentine dance
- St. Patrick's Day Talent Show
- Gibson symbol created
- Gibson T-shirts
- Gibson bumper-stickers

7. Citizen Involvement Network

- Weekly community planning meetings, with attendance from 25-50
- Numerous community work-days
- Bi-weekly Voice of Gibson newspaper
- Summer 'Fun Days' - recreational activities for all ages.
- 2 teen dances organized by the youth
- Youth gave 3 work-days during their spring vacation week for clean-up and beautification
- Jaycee chapter organized
- Renovation initiated by youth on youth room in community center
- New community center furnished through memorial gifts

8. Gibson Community Lyceum

- Depot grand opening as Gibson Station Community Center with 11 well known visiting artists
- After school dance classes for 7-10 year olds
- Quilting Bee for senior citizens
- Appreciation dinner for 46 county and community leaders for their support of the Gibson Project
- Cubs and Brownie scouts meet in new community center

III. Toward Social Effectiveness

9. Contemporary Life Institute

- Fireman's training class held at community center
- Governor's School Volunteer Program initiated in Scoland County at Gibson's Pate-Gardner School
- G. E. D. (High School equivalency test) preparation classes held in Community Center
- \$12,000 training grant from Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation

10. Early Learning Center

- Gibson United Methodist Church provided pre-school facility space rent-free for one year
- Pre-school operating part-time with 11 students and 2 staff-in-training
- \$36,000 grant from Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation for Early Learning Center relocation and full-time operation

11. Resident Housing Enterprise

- Winterization of 3 houses
- Major renovation of 1 house
- Assistance in securing septic tank funding for elderly home-owner.
- Street name signs up at all intersections (by Town Council)
- House numbers prepared for all houses (by Town Council)
- Selection by the Department of Housing and Urban Development to participate in pilot rural initiative program as a HUD demonstration community

12. Neighborhood Health League

- Community Services Fair where 14 County Agencies set up booths to inform residents of their services
- C.P.R. Class

13. Living Environment Project

- Numerous community volunteer work days spent in clean-up and beautification
- One acre family and children's park created by volunteer labor and donated materials
- Only major unpaved road in residential area paved by state DOT
- New street lighting in process(by Town Council)
- Fencing, bleachers, and score board on softball field(by county Recreation Dept)
- Old gymnasium painted and floors sanded and varnished(by county Recreation Dept)

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE GIBSON HUMAN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT DURING PHASE I

Program # 1 - Crossroads Industries Complex

Visits were made to 6 industries in the county and conversations were held with the County Chamber of Commerce to explore industrial development in Gibson. One firm commitment for a wood products industry was received and one possibility for styro-foam was uncovered.

Program # 2 - Employment Skills Agency

40% of the house holds were surveyed to determine present employment conditions.

Program # 3 - Gibson Development Corporation

The development of a master plan for the community was initiated through the building of a data base for the plan. A forty percent demographic sample of the community was conducted with a computer analysis of the results was made. A survey of property ownership in the community was completed. Initial contacts were made with the N.C. State University concerning the possibility of students doing a design study of the downtown area this fall. Four community residents went with ICA staff on development calls to industries in the county. The Laurinburg-Scotland County Chamber of Commerce named Gibson as the priority community in the county for locating the next small industry.

Program # 4 - Downtown Reclamation Scheme

In the Downtown area, several stores have redesigned their window displays to make them more attractive. Old tires and junked cars have been removed. A verbal promise has been received from the Seaboard Coast Line R/R saying that the old depot station is to be given to the Town of Gibson to be used as a community center. Clean-up around the depot, including mowing high grass and weeds, has been begun. Two parks have been built in the downtown and a small lot has been cleared. One park includes a community bulletinboard, dogwood trees and a rail fence. The other has benches and a flower garden.

Program # 5 - Small Businesses Enterprise

An exterior inspection has been made on all downtown buildings, and an interior inspection completed on most of them. A chart showing building date, present use, ownership, and condition has been completed. One building has been turned over for community use, and conversations have been begun on the possibility of locating a restaurant, an insurance agency, and a laundromat in the downtown area.

Program # 6 - Community Identity Project

A heritage data bank was created as a result to a Town Meeting in early June. Articles on the history of the community have appeared in the bi-weekly newspaper, The Voice of Gibson. The community has written a song and created a symbol.

Program # 7 - Community Involvement Program

The involvement program began with the publicity committee for the Consult. A 13' banner was erected in the heart of town. Posters, flyers, and a small band-wagon parade. with good radio and TV coverage.

Program # 9 - Contemporary Life Institute

A Four-County Adult Literacy Program, using the Laubach method, was begun in the community with community volunteers as toturs.

Program # 10 - Early Learning Center

During a 40% community survey, data was gathered regarding the educational level of residents.

Program # 11 - Neighborhood Health League

Health data was included in the 40% survey.

Program # 12 - Resident Housing Enterprise

Housing data was included in the 40% survey.

Program # 13 - Living Environment Project

New Horizons Park, a family recreational area and children's playground, was created. The land was donated for use by the community. 2700 hours of volunteer labor went into major land clearing, building tables, benches, see-saws, climbers, etc., and creating and planting two flower gardens.

STAKES - Two stake meetings were held during July. These meetings were held on weeks 2 & 4 of each month. The meetings were initiated in each of the five stakes, and were preceded by stake walks and stake calling by community residents. The stake meetings averaged about 40 in attendance (combined total)

GUILDS - There are five guilds to implement the 13 programs; I Economic Guild (1-3), Commercial Guild(4-5), Community Guild(6-8), Education Guild(9-10) and Services Guild(11-13). They all met twice during Phase I with an average total attendance of 55.

LEADERSHIP

DEVELOPMENT - A core group of people who have been identified as leadership in the community have been knowledgeable about the various steps of initiating a project. In addition new leadership was identified in the midst of the creation of the New Horizons Park and the first two issues of the Voice. Four people went on development calls with ICA

FUNDING

RECEIVED - Attached is a list(partial) of contributors of in-kind goods and services during the Consult. \$4350 was raised from 24 consultants. \$2304 was raised in consultant scholarship fees. Development calls to local county industries and businesses produced \$1150 during July. \$3000 was granted in July by the Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation for interim staff salaries. Vista slaries were secured for six slots, to begin in October. In addition to the above, the following contributions have been made by local community residents since the Consult.

1. Five different trucks for a total of over 100 hours in the community
2. One truck for two trips to Charlotte(200 miles roundtrip each trip
3. Three tractors for land clarence(over 30 hours)
4. Two hours of bulldozier time

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Program # 8 - Gibson Community Lyceum

A town meeting was held in early June, preceeding the consult.

Health data was included in the 40% survey.

Program # 12 - Resident Housing Enterprise

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PROGRAMS	COMPONENTS	SUB-TACTICS BY NUMBER
CROSSROADS INDUSTRIES COMPLEX	Ancillary Products	78
	Local Manufacturing	84
	Industrial Services	91
	Resources Development	79
EMPLOYMENT SKILLS AGENCY	Employment Counseling	54
	Vocational Training	51
	New Careers	55
	Apprenticeship Service	56
GIBSON DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION	Land Development	1-2-4-6-7-9-75-76
	Planning Coordination	15-143-144
	Financial Investments	77-145
	Town Promotion	93-127- 146 146-185
DOWNTOWN RECLAMATION SCHEME	Architectural Landscaping	177-179-184
	Building Restoration	13-14-16-17-18
	Social Nodes	83-166-167
	Interior Designs	
SMALL BUSINESS ENTERPRISE	Consumer Services	80-82-85-86-87-89-90-94-95
	Retail Products	81-88
	Public Entertainment	147
	Commercial Management	
COMMUNITY IDENTITY PROJECT	Rural Heritage	37
	Community Symbols	176-178-180-181-182-183
	Town Festivals	
	Gibson Emisary	
CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT NETWORK	Neighborhood Care	141-149-150-151
	Volunteer Services	129-135-137-153-157-159
	Information Interchange	119-120-121-122-123-124-125-126-130-131-132-140-168-169
	Community Events	25-26-27-28-29-30-31-32-33-36-38-42-138-148
GIBSON COMMUNITY MUSEUM	Community Forums	139-142
	Local Arts	39-40-41
	Cultural Emphasis	34
	Visiting Speakers	
CONTEMPORARY LIFE INSTITUTE	Supplemental Studies	53-60-61-63-64-65-66-67-68
	Functional Literacy	59-62
	Continuing Education	133-136
	Practical Skills	50-52-58
EARLY TRAINING CENTER	Educational Curriculum	35-69
	Faculty Training	73-134
	Parent Participation	71-72-74
	Community Support	57-70-158
NEIGHBORHOOD CENTERS	Home Visitation	98-100-109-115
	Satellite Clinic	96-97-99-105-110

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	Faculty Training	73-134
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	Community Support	57-70-158
NEIGHBORHOOD HEALTH LEAGUE	Home Visitation	98-100-109-115
	Satellite Clinic	96-97-99-105-110
	Preventive Health	30-101-102-103-106-108-112-116-117
	Emergency Services	104-111
RESIDENT HOUSING ENTERPRISE	Home Construction	20
	Housing Rehabilitation	21-23-113-152
	Residence Beautification	114
	Cooperative Resources	19-22-24
LIVING ENVIRONMENT PROJECT	Open Space	172-173-174-175
	Community Beautification	43-44-45-46-47-48-49-154-155-156-170
	Resident Safety	10-11-12-107-118-160-161-162
	Utilities Extension	3-5-8

~~163~~ SUB-TACTICS 163, 164 & 165 DO NOT EXIST (NUMBERING ERROR)

KEYSTONES

1. 4 economic enterprises: Laundromat, Restaurant, Farmer's Market, CDA Office
2. One-day education module
3. Depot & plaza showpiece
4. Frame of public & private sector for TM state funding
5. Core of 15 "Iron Men" to host 1st year celebration.
6. Strongholds in 7 counties with 20 events each.

VISIBILITY

Depot Completion and Beautiful Restaurant

Everywhere a visitor looks he will see signs and symbols. They will indicate accomplishments, future planned work, and where to locate services, information, and sights to see. They will see pictures of accomplishments, a slide show telling the Gibson story, before and after pictures to dramatize and rapid transformation and bustling downtown, sparkling clean. A Gibsonite will see a beautiful dream come true restaurant, and their history displayed in windows up and down main street. They would see family memorial gifts, flowers from their gardens facing town parks, see and hear a slide show with music of and by local churches. Forever after the renovated railroad depot center, donated trees and shrubs, memorials and donated art pieces and state artist-created scenes of Gibson will remind people of the new day Gibson has created. The community already works best with a cast of thousands-- that is through involving everyone. A task-time chart can create a motivated informed effort by noting progress continually. Work days, perhaps focusing on youth one day, women another, etc. will provide a broad varied work force decorating every store window in town with historic items, guilds using Main Street buildings as guild halls will focus attention on the economic transformation occurring in Gibson.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. They are requesting a Functional Education module Week 6 of this quarter.
2. We recommend that they get assistance from a contractor locally.
3. They are requesting a TM orchestrator for 4 weeks or 4 TM orchestrators for 1 week each. We recommend that they be pushed to use community residents for this and draw from the area where gaps may appear.
4. They are requesting a proposal writer for 1 week to assist in their state TM funding proposal. We suggest that that can happen by phone and mail and that the Impact Post would help in monitoring the proposal.

MERRY MONTH OF MAY TASKS

GIBSON HDP

ARENAS	HDP TASK NAME	COMPONENTS					The VICTORY DESCRIBED
		1	2	3	4	5	
1. Economic Keystone Showpiece-	Initiate 4 economic enterprises with common ext. motif	Demonstration Facades and Landscaping	Existing Construction structural Analysis	Lease Arrangements and Building	Building Renovation	Interior space Design and Equipment Set-up	4 operating economic enterprises
2. Social Program Keystone	Hold one-day Education Module	Develop 'marketing' Story	County Educational Structures Involvement	Recruiting 20 Gibson Residents	Set-up week Visits		3 month
3. Environmental Campaign Keystone	Depot area Landscaping	Entrance ramp & platform	Exterior repair and Painting	Flowers, Shrubs and Trees	Parking Lot	Mural	Landscaping Showpiece in center of Town
4. Regional Frame Resources	Frame Public and Private Sector for Major TM Funding	Raleigh Impact Events	State Government Frame	Private Fdn. and Business Frame	Z. Smith Reynolds Fdn. Matching Grant	Strengthening the Strongholds around the HDP	Submission of well-framed proposals for Mass. TM Funding
5. Local Leadership Intensification	Train depth, articulate Core Leadership	Education Module Participation	Second year 'consult'	Guild and Stake Activities	C.D.A. Board Development Training	Weekly Leadership Planning Meeting	15 Iron Men hosting the 1st Year Celeb. Event
6. Impact Saturation Strongholds	Strengthen Strongholds Surrounding HDP	Impact Key Networks	Engagement of TM Grads in Gibson Workdays	June 16th Celebration Participation	Gibson Participation in Saturation Events	'Securing' Past TMs for TM Advocacy	20 Impact Events and/or Forums in 7 Counties