Monthly Key Accomplishments – November 2011

Urban Redevelopment Plan

Participants:

Sumter Archway Professional: Barbara Grogan

Community Members: Designated staff members from the City of Americus, Sumter County BOC, and members of the Americus Sumter Georgia Initiative for Community Housing (GICH).

UGA Archway: Aaron Sayama, MPA Graduate Student

Carl Vinson Institute of Government: Rob Gordon (URP Advisement Assistance to Graduate Student)

The Americus-Sumter GICH team has been actively addressing community-wide housing needs for the past two years. Through GICH retreat attendance and local discussions, it was determined that an Urban Redevelopment Plan would best suit the housing and infrastructure development needs of the community.

In an effort to address these needs, UGA Archway coordinated with Aaron Sayama, an MPA Graduate Student, to assist with developing the content of an URP to include Americus and Sumter County. Aaron has facilitated the local group through discussions of goals for the plan, timeline for development, and possible funding sources.

The local team has focused on determining the targeted areas for the plan, and a decision has been made to write one plan with multiple targets rather than multiple plans. There has been much discussion about the specific areas, and data gathered through a Housing Inventory completed for the team by the River Valley Regional Commission in 2010 has supported the selection process.

Along with choosing targeted areas, Aaron has assisted the team with outlining the specific needs of each area, and goals to accomplish in each. Through the encouragement of private development due to a sound URP, the community hopes to address critical housing and infrastructure needs for several years to come.