

Eastside residents to vote for top plans Neighborhood, university work together on sites

Post staff report

Covington Eastside residents will vote Thursday night on their top three choices of development plans created by University of Cincinnati planning students for Jacob Price Homes and Randolph Park.

The voting will be conducted by the Eastside Neighborhood Association from 6 to 8 p.m. at Ninth Street Baptist Church, 231 E. Ninth St., in Covington.

In upcoming weeks, the top three plans for Jacob Price Homes will be presented to the Housing Authority of Covington for its consideration. The top three plans for Randolph Park will be presented to the Covington City Commission.

"This will give the two groups a good idea of what residents would like to see happen," said Bennie Doggett, president of the Eastside Neighborhood Association.

The housing authority intends by year's end to petition the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for permission to tear down the 66-year-old Jacob Price subsidized housing community of 163 apartments. Randolph Park, largely undeveloped, is located across the street from Jacob Price Homes.

Earlier this year, a collaboration between the Eastside Neighborhood Association and the School of Planning at the University of Cincinnati's College of Design, Architecture, Art and Planning yielded 65 student-produced site proposals. The students did the study as a class project.

The association narrowed the number of plans to 11 for both Jacob Price Homes and for the park, and it is now asking residents to pick their three favorites at Thursday's meeting.

The plans, which include various types of housing for the five-acre Jacob Price area and different designs for the park, will be on display at the church Thursday, and members of the association will be available to answer questions.

Doggett said Covington's Eastside neighborhood has about 2,800 residents and that she's hoping 50 to 70 percent of the adult residents vote for their favorite plans.

"We're pushing for residents to have a say in what happens," said Doggett. "We can't guarantee that a plan is going to be implemented, but this will give neighborhood residents an opportunity to say what suits them."

"We want to work with the housing authority and the city so that everybody is OK with what eventually happens."

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