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**Russell Choice Neighborhood**

**Coordinating Committee Meeting NOTES**

*1/31/2018*

**Welcome and Introductions** – A couple new members joined today’s meeting: Evon Smith, the President and CEO of One West and Treneice Walton, Urban Strategies Outreach Worker

* **Action Activities** – (Jeana Dunlap & Kathleen O’Neil)
  + Gateway Murals – Sarah Lindergren is managing this project.
    - Four murals (4 different artists) will be located on the overpasses along the “14th Street” rail corridor – one on Muhammad Ali Blvd., Chestnut St., Madison St., and Magazine St. Currently getting right of entry in place with the railroad for the locations so when weather is consistently above 40 degrees, the teams can begin. Hoping to visually lighten the overpasses with the new paint.
    - The artists have been using residents as their muse. The designs aren’t final, but the handout shows the direction they are going.
  + Vacant Lots –Laura Grabowski and Christopher Fitzgerald are managing this project.
    - 510 S. 18th Street- Outdoor community kitchen and seating area (“Lily Pad” located next to Sweet Peaches)
    - 533 S. 18th Street-cleared of overgrowth, land banked. Foreclosure process underway on two adjacent lots, which will be packaged together for future use.
    - 636 and 636 S. 18th Street- “Opportunity Corner” and community garden/edible landscaping. This is a joint project with Louisville Grows and Canaan Community Development Corporation. – The shipping containers will also be set for flexible use by community.
    - Construction on vacant lot projects will begin late February, and complete by early spring.
  + Sheppard Park Improvements (Kathleen) - Site plan and rendering handout
    - PACE construction selected as general contractor. The construction fence is installed.
    - Groundbreaking took place 11/13/17 – students from Roosevelt Perry participated. Video and photos are on the Vision Russell website.
    - Construction is expected to be completed by end of April, 2018
    - Will have a grand opening event to celebrate the opening of the new spray ground. It will open on the Memorial Day weekend schedule with the other public city spraygrounds. There will be an addition of restrooms at the park and signage about the history of the park and William Sheppard, whom the park is named after.
  + smART Stop Bus Shelters (Kathleen)
    - There will be 6 total new smART stops (see handout for designs and locations). We have received input on the designs from the adjoining property owners (i.e. the stop next to Catholic Charities will say “Welcome” in many languages).
    - Architects/Contractors include – VBNA, Luckett & Farley, and Schaeffer Engineering/HDDS
    - We will schedule “Ribbon Cutting” celebrations and invite the Coordinating Committee and greater community
* **Implementation Grant** – (Tim Barry)
  + Housing
    - Phase I Update – Relocation is complete, we moved 107 families
    - Phase II Update – Relocation process will begin tomorrow, Feb. 1st with a snapshot of those living in Phase II (buildings 21-50, between 10th-12th streets). There are 384 units in this phase, and ~296 families to relocate.
    - Monday we will deliver letters to residents, and our hope is to have people with school age children moving during the summer months (there are 187 families with kids ages 4-18). We are working very closely with JCPS to assist families with children during their transition to new housing.
  + Demolition – We are reviewing proposals for a contractor, but we must complete the Section 106 process before demo can begin.
    - There are 3 phases of demo that correspond to the relocation phases. We expect Phase I demo to begin in June 2018.
    - We are recruiting now for employment opportunities with the project. At Urban’s January 24th showcase, 26 residents expressed interest in construction jobs. More recruitment events are being scheduled for the future. There is a priority of hiring Beecher Terrace residents first, followed by Russell residents, and then other Section 3 eligible applicants
    - LMHA & Urban League are working closely to get residents trained (Kentuckiana Builds) and ready for work. Orientations for the program are ongoing. The current class will graduate March 2nd, and another will start immediately afterward. Please send referrals to the program.
  + Old Walnut Park Closure – Fence is being installed now. There will be signage on the fence explaining that the park will be replaced through the Choice grant, and will list nearby alternative parks for use in the meantime. Conversations are underway with Spalding University regarding use of their new playing field being built at Kentucky St. and 9th Street. Scott Love mentioned a football field at St. Stephens Church, he will put Gretchen in touch with staff to discuss using their field.
  + People (TaLonda Holland) – Treneice Walton was introduced as the new Outreach Worker (focus on youth and education)
    - We have signed up 1,114 residents (680 households) for Case Management, 534 of those have completed a needs assessment – which includes a family development plan and individual plans where the resident sets goals and the CM makes referrals to respective services and resources in the community. We had a provider showcase for the Beecher and Russell residents on January 24th that was very successful.
    - Upcoming Resident Meetings and Events
      * Service Providers were assigned to task groups and will be meeting Feb. 8th/9th. The 5 task groups are: Health and Wellness, Economic Self-Sufficiency, Education, Reducing Recidivism , and Greater Russell
      * Monthly Resident Leadership Council, Feb. 12th
      * Resident Meeting, Feb. 19th (3rd Monday of each month)
      * Health and Wellness event, Feb. 26th
    - The Beecher Report – A newsletter just for Beecher Terrace residents sent to all Beecher households, including those who have already relocated. The 3rd edition just went out. All publications are on the Vision Russell website.
    - People Plan has been revised and approved by HUD
      * MOAs with partners are being finalized, plan to be done by end of Feb.
  + Neighborhood – Critical Community Improvements (CCI)- (Jeana Dunlap & Kathleen O’Neil)
    - CCI Plan submitted to HUD 12/12/17. Five activities currently under review. This is an initial plan, once Kyleen feels we have satisfied all of HUD’s questions/comments, she will take to HUD panel for the review process. It may take several months to get final approval. We hope to go to HUD panel mid-Feb.
    - Historic Quinn Chapel Stabilization – funds will go towards stabilizing this historically significant structure for future development and reuse. Funds will also be used to create a historic structure report, and hire a structural engineer and historic preservation consultant. There will be a separate RFP process to redevelop Quinn Chapel. YMCA is a partner in the grant application as they own the property. Want to get the property back into the public sector. LMG and YMCA applied for Civil Rights History Grant offering up to $500K to help preserve historically important structures. Recipients will be announced in February.
    - Smart City Public Safety – funds will go towards deploying 36 cameras and 50 smart street lights in Russell at locations identified as crime hot spots or otherwise problematic. The smart lights will also feature air quality and noise monitoring technology that can be activated in the future. A public WiFi network will also be installed alongside the cameras and smart street lights. We will seek resident input on this project.
    - The Village @ West Jefferson – funds will go towards the build out of lease-hold space that will be used for retail, dining and service-provider offices in the newly constructed building. MOLO is operating at 15th and Jefferson, but will relocate to this space once construction is complete. Per Jamesetta, the project went out for bid and they have selected a General Contractor (projection is under-budget at this time). The project is 65% pre-leased and includes 2 restaurants – one got her start using Chef space for the last 2 years, the other is in partnership with New Legacy offering a reentry employment program in conjunction with the Presbyterian Seminary (i.e. food for ministry faculty and open to public). Awaiting the awarding of tax credits in mid-February and hope to break ground in April 2018.
    - Business Center & Plaza at LCCC – funds will go towards finishing the remainder of the existing lease-hold space (~1900 sq. ft) in the Business Center in LCCC’s Old Walnut Street campus. They have gigabit speed internet services. Anyone who locates to this site will have this rarely found speed creating a huge opportunity in West Louisville. LMG is also working on establishing a commercial kitchen on-site, in hopes this also invites new business and services into west Louisville and Russell.
    - 18th Street Corridor Redevelopment- funds will go towards the acquisition, land-banking, and the rehabilitation of vacant lots, commercial, owner-occupied and rental-occupied residential structures along 18th Street and the blocks immediately to the east and west. Jeana – We have great community assets at this site (KCAAH, business and retail corner, NDHC residential housing, Chef Space, etc.), and we want to leverage this naturally growing critical mass by bringing in more dense and concentrated activity to the area. In addition to the smART Stop bus shelters we are putting in, we are looking for new ways to activate underutilized property by recruiting small businesses to operate in this area. We have a lot of ground work to do, but hope to see this as sort of a town center/Butcher Block concept. Shawn – LCCC is working with WSG (Walnut Street Group) Investment group out of Washington, D.C. who have also brought in a national partner (the first African American Construction and Development firm with headquarters also in D.C.). LCCC will be working with them on development along Muhammad Ali Blvd and have had initial discussions about going east for more commercial development.
  + **General Russell Updates** 
    - LCCC – Arts, Culture and Innovation Corridor update – (Shawn Summerville). Jeana - sometime in March, LMG plans to partner with LC3 to offer community engagement where residents can bring concerns to the table, such as regentrification. We want to hear concerns of the residents and talk about ideas for mitigation. We want to make sure existing residents have the same opportunity as new residents. It was mentioned to publish this in a future VR newsletter. LCCC is offering GED classes, and working with Urban to create entrepreneurship opportunities. Also looking at community engagement in March where they will present to the community LCCC’s master plan for the 18th and Muhammad Ali corridor, Dan with American Institute of Architect will attend regarding the suggestions that came out of the SDAT. Kathleen asked for information to publish in the Vision Russell newsletter.
    - Jackie asked if a future coordinating committee meeting could be combined with a Russell Neighborhood Association meeting to allow residents to hear information first hand and have the opportunity to express their thoughts.
    - NDHC-Upcoming Russell public art projects funded by Louisville Visual Arts on Muhammad Ali Blvd. – (Amy Luckett/Lori Flanery)
      * Handout explaining two projects: LMG and Bryan Holden are working on 2 sculptures in Russell, and the Louisville Visual Arts is funding 4 murals, 2 of which will be in Russell. 1500 Muhammad Ali will be a community driven mural, and 1600 Muhammad Ali is an artist driven mural. There is Call for Artists out currently with LVA for this location (see Vision Russell newsletter)
    - Russell Spring Festival 3/24/18 – Amy distributed a flyer, and is seeking partnerships for the festival. She hopes to tie progress of the murals with this event. Jacki – the festival is a great opportunity for all of Russell to have fellowship, and to recruit more members for the Russell Neighborhood Association.
    - Heritage West (Jeana Dunlap) – 24 acre site at 30th between W. Market and M. Ali. Committed to LUL for development of indoor track facility. LUL and LMG are negotiating details in the development agreement. The Metro Council will need to approve the conveyance of the property to LUL. Lisa Thompson mentioned that she already gets regional and national calls regarding this project.
* **Other Updates**
  + Digital Inclusion Update – (Chloe Quiroga) – Improving connectivity is one of our goals for this Choice grant.
    - Making aware the 2 low-cost internet programs for eligible residents
    - LMHA is now a ConnectHomeUSA community
    - ConnectHomeUSA convening is February 16th at LCCC – contact Chloe if you would like to attend.
    - First annual report for the Implementation grant is due April 21st – we are working on this now. Urban, LMG and LMHA may be reaching out to everyone on the committee to get info for this report. Once we submit it, HUD will go over entire report with us. Our work through the grant has been extensive and comprehensive grant and we are proud of our accomplishments thus far.
    - Next Coordinating Committee meeting is scheduled for April 25th

**Other items:**

* Tim - we have site access to the Porter Paints site and are completing an analysis of its condition.
* Tim - 1635 Plymouth Ct. is in foreclosure and we are monitoring the outcome.

**Announcements and Comments from the committee:**

* Ann Hagan-Grigsby – Park DuValle Community Health Center purchased the property at 15th and Broadway in June of 2017. They have authorization to demolish the building. Project is on track, with or without the federal funding approval, they will move forward with their own reserves, and hope to have groundbreaking in March 2018 and the building open in Dec. 2018. At the main site on Wilson Ave they will have an event Feb. 10th where all kids (patient or note) can get free dental screenings that day.
* Lisa Thompson announced and passed out flyer for the Reily Reentry Project (expungement clinic) on Feb. 17th. Information is on LUL website. Please encourage people with lingering issues to attend.
* Jackie announced that residents are aggressively petitioning against opening more liquor stores in the Russell neighborhood, specifically 18th and Broadway.
* Discussion about assets in Russell outside the 18th and Muhammad Ali Corridor. LMG has a focus on all of West Commercial Corridor District. LMG has early acquisition on Broadway and working on connecting small business resources with people who are currently operating in that zone. OneWest is also looking at the Broadway corridor, and a potential business association.