9/6/17 Vision Russell Coordinating Committee Meeting

NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday January 31st 10-11:30 am

@ Office Environment Company

10:00 a.m. -11:30a.m.

**Vision Russell Transformation Plan:**

* LMHA is in the process of closing out the Planning Grant, all funds have been expended.
* The Vision Russell Transformation Plan (VRTP) is in the process of being revised before submitting the final version to HUD.
* The VRTP will be adopted by LMG as the official Russell neighborhood plan.
* A draft of the VRTP can be found on the VisionRussell.org website or by clicking [here](http://visionrussell.org/about/transformation-plan/).
* LMHA will produce boards to outline the goals and strategies to display for the community.
* It was suggested that JCPS’ Showcase of Schools (10/28) could be potential event to present the education goals in the VRTP.
* There is concern that with so much activity taking place between 9th and 22nd Streets, it may create a divide between west and east Russell. LMHA is open to ideas to include in the VRTP that can better connect west and east Russell.

**Communication:**

* Vision Russell updates can be found on the website (VisionRussell.org) , in the bi-weekly e-mail blasts and in the VR newsletter.
* The VR newsletter will be distributed to the Russell churches and Rev. Snardon has offered to help distribute to the churches who have been unresponsive. Julia Robinson has also devised a strategy to distribute the newsletters on Wednesday nights, when many churches hold regular meetings.

**Action Grant:**

SmART Stops-

* The contractors who will be constructing SmART Stops at locations where the shelter will be closely associated to adjoining properties will meet with the associated entities to review the designs.
* The Russell Neighborhood Association will present some of the SmART Stop designs that have been finalized at their next meeting, 9/26.
* Luckett & Farley (L&F) will be surveying transit riders on bus route 18 to receive additional community feedback on their design to be at Muhammad Ali Blvd. and 18th St. as it is very sculptural and received mixed feedback from the Vision Russell Selection Team.
* Across the street from the SmART Stop at 18th St. and Muhammad Ali Blvd., on the vacant lot owned by NDHC, there will be a temporary installation of sculptures. Sarah Lindgren from LMG is the contact person for this project.
* 346 S. 22nd St. will be another location for a Smart Stop and the Russell Vision Center, a new community center that will be affordable for Russell residents to rent and use, will be located in the former DAV building that is behind this location.
* Rachel Platt, from WHAS, is interested in doing a news story on the SmART Stops in the future.

Gateways-

* There were 13 submissions received from the Call for Artists and the selected artists attended the Russell Neighborhood Association meeting seeking community input on their future designs.
* Over the next couple of months the artists will complete additional community engagement.
* Designs will be submitted by November 1st.
* A contractor will clean the overpasses and complete the base coat for the artists to use as their canvas. Once the artwork is complete, the contractor will use a clear sealant to protect the murals.
* The artists are representative of the Russell neighborhood.

Sheppard Park-

* The restroom facility and spray ground to be constructed at Sheppard Park will have an African theme, complete with permanent children’s Congo drums.
* Three proposals were received in response to the Sheppard Park restroom facility and spray ground construction RFP that closed 9/1. All proposals are over budget by 30-40K and LMHA/LMG is investigating how to lower costs.
* 1635 Plymouth Court is in the process of being acquired by LMHA as the property has fire damage and has been looted of copper piping.
* At Chestnut and 16th Street is another property that is a problem and LMHA is in the process of purchasing it. There is concern about the land becoming a haven for garbage and dumping if another structure is not erected once the existing one is demolished.

Vacant Lots-

* LMG is completing land-use agreements with all project leads.
* Once final vacant lot project designs are complete, LMHA will circulate.
* Opportunity Corner- Caanan Community Development Corp. will be conducting outreach to see what the community would like to see housed within the shipping containers.

HUD has permitted an extended deadline for Action Activity projects. Deadline dates vary depending on the project.

**Implementation Grant:**

Housing-

* LMHA met with The Walnut Group who has contracted with LCCC to assist in developing with Arts, Culture and Innovation Corridor along Muhammad Ali Blvd.
* The Walnut Group will submit a proposal for the development the north side of Muhammad Ali Blvd. between 9th and 13th Streets within a few weeks.
* LMHA will also be meeting with City View Apartments to see if the owners of the site want to do improvements to the property or LMHA may seek to acquire the south side of Muhammad Ali Blvd. between 9th and 13th Streets.
* Park DuValle Community Health Center is planning to put their new offices on the north side of the 15th St. and Broadway corner using their HSS grant. The property they intend to is currently a liquor store that can be found across 15th street from 5th 3rd bank.

Urban Strategies Case Management-

* Urban Strategies is the case management and outreach worker group that LMHA has contracted with to lead case management for Beecher Terrace residents, who will be relocating in three phases.
* Phase I of relocation begin in May and will end by the end of October.
* Urban Strategies has enrolled 933 Beecher Terrace residents in case management- 569 head of households.
* 1327 total people at BT when case management started, 697 households as of the date of application.
* 268 needs assessments have been completed.
* 9/25 will be a family game night that will double as a resident meeting.
* The Spooky Ooky will be a fall festival taking place at Baxter Park or Community Center (dependent on weather) 10/19 at 6:00 p.m. and will feature “table or treat” where the children can participate in a fun activity and receive a treat or prize at each table. Urban Strategies would like to see as many of the tables as possible and the table can also serve to provide information for the parents as well. If your organization would like to host a table, contact [Devan.King@urbanstrategiesinc.org](mailto:Devan.King@urbanstrategiesinc.org)
* Urban Strategies also created a Facebook group, Urban Strategies: Beecher Terrace, to connect residents to resources and important information. Vision Russell team members are invited to join the group and may post resources and events that will serve Beecher Terrace residents.

Old Walnut Park Closure-

* The park will be closing after football season at the end of November, as this is the location of Phase I development for the replacement housing at Beecher Terrace.
* There will be a sign posted that will list alternative parks that are close by.
* LMHA will be finding another field for the football and cheerleading teams to meet next year and Tim is committed to replacing Old Walnut Park in the Russell neighborhood.

The People Plan-

* The People Plan is currently being revised and Urban Strategies is investigating ways to make the fund allocations the most beneficial for the residents.
* Kristie and TaLonda (Urban Strategies) are meeting with some of the Service Providers to see ir or how they can revise their commitment to best align themselves with the goals and strategies outlined in the plan.
* Once The People Plan is approved, the MOU process will be completed shortly after.

HUD would like that assessments should be made before a resident relocates and case management should make it a priority to connect residents who are relocating or have already relocated to the resources they need.

Critical Community Improvements (CCIs)-

* The CCI’s are to support the efforts at Beecher Terrace and throughout the neighborhood. They must be physical improvements since they will be funded through the Implementation Grant.
* The three CCI project leads are LCCC, MOLO Village and KCAAH.
* The CCI plan needs to be submitted to HUS by December 12, 2017. After it is submitted, a HUD panel will be reviewing and will meet with LMHA to receive additional information.
* The environmental reviews will be done on all three CCI projects at one time, after the CCI Plan is approved. These CCI projects need to be impactful and also complement the Beecher efforts or supporting something else.

**LMHA Digital Inclusion:**

* LMG and LMHA created the Digital Inclusion Working Group and begin digital inclusion outreach efforts at Beecher Terrace in June, 2017. Outreach efforts include having a low-cost internet signup table at resident meetings and events and also having an ongoing free, refurbished computer raffle for residents to enter.
* LMHA received ConnectHome Nation cohort status in August, 2017.
* The first year goal for ConnectHome Nation cities is to sign-up 30% of all public housing residents to low-cost internet.

**Other:**

There are about homelessness within the Russell community. The Coalition for the Homeless is a good place to direct homeless people as they record who uses their services and assist in identifying the core barriers that have caused people to become homeless, but there is also need homeless housing within the neighborhood. Homelessness will remain on future CC agendas and we brainstorm ways to address this issue.

**Upcoming Coordinating Committee Meetings:**

* + December 20, 2017 – 10 a.m.
  + March 21, 2018 – 10 a.m.
  + June 20, 2018 – 10 a.m.
  + September 19, 2018 – 10 a.m.