

Section 106 Beecher Terrace, Second Consulting Parties Quarterly Meeting, December 6, 2018

Participated by: Darcy Thompson, Lavel White, Natalie Woods, Dave Schatz, Darnell Farris, Allison Smith, Kathleen O'Neil, Manfred Reid, Cynthia Johnson, Gretchen Millikin, Jamesetta Ferguson, Burcum Keeton, Layla George, Anne Bader, Emily Allison, Laura Kinsell-Baer, Krista Robinson

Cynthia opened the meeting with a welcome to the Consulting Parties Quarterly Meeting for the Beecher Terrace redevelopment project and explained the purpose of the meeting is to update consulting parties and get feedback. This process is part of the overall Russell Transformation Plan for the Choice Neighborhood Initiative. Because of Beecher's historical value, we have used Section 106 processes to determine boundaries and potential areas of adverse effect.

Stage 1 of Beecher I Residential (Laura) - Demo is active on the Phase I site. Currently taking bids on Phase II demo. Plan to begin right after the holidays, once all Phase II families have been relocated. Cynthia will notify the group once the wrecking permits have been granted and demo will begin.

Building design for Phase I housing (Laura) – the bid set is currently being revised and will then go to the subcontractor community. Messer, (the General Contractor) has broken the plans into separate bid packages to allow for easier bidding based on expertise. These go out on Monday and final pricing is expected in mid-January. MBS hopes to close in early February and begin construction late February to early March 2019. The Phase I building will be for ages 55+ and will include the management offices that will serve the senior portion and future phases of development. This was intentional to allow for staff to be in place and serving the community right away. The management building will also include community and fitness rooms, office space, outdoor space, and a separate entrance with its own address.

Updates on Mitigation Activities

Natalie Woods updated the group on the Western Branch Library Archives. She is in the research phase of learning what spacing and equipment they will need to stand the test of time and allow staff to update the webpage constantly. She is working diligently with LMG's Community Relations Dept., the Main Library and other partners to ensure the digitizing process decided upon can be continued and replicated on a larger scale by other libraries. There is a meeting on Dec. 20th to discuss what this could look like, as they are setting a precedence for the rest of the library system. She plans to purchase equipment and begin digitizing as early as January.

Natalie asked for anyone with items they would like to have added to the archive, to let her know. She is working with another partner to scan items while she is waiting for the new equipment. Corn Island offered their equipment to help. Natalie also plans to meet with UofL to discuss a partnership.

Natalie Woods and Lavel White (Documentary) partnered in October 2018 for a panel discussion called "Visions of Beecher Terrace". It was extremely successful with over 100 people attending, and much feedback from locals and around the U.S. A second panel discussion called "Visions of Beecher Terrace Moving Forward" is scheduled for Feb. 26 at 5:30 pm-7:30 pm. Renee Murphy will be the moderator

again. Natalie has also partnered with Darcy (*Louisville Storybook*) on specific projects; and is partnering with Spalding University to offer a 7-week program to the community. This partnership came about after a Spalding professor was moved by the panel discussion. The first four weeks of program will focus on mental health, and the last three weeks will focus on racial trauma. The synergy between mitigation activities and the community is evident.

Darcy Thompson gave an update on the Louisville Storybook. He is just beginning the process by meeting people and listening to their stories, ideas and how they would like to be involved. He has been speaking to a couple great local photographers about the project. He has also been working with Lavel and Natalie; and is open to working with anyone that is interested and could add value to this project.

Dave Schatz offered to get Darcy the names of two brother photographers from the 1880-1890's that were discovered through the archaeology process. Maybe Darcy could locate the families of those brothers.

Darnell Farris asked if Mr. Russell is going to be acknowledged and how. Darcy said as of now, that is undetermined at this time, and he is open to hearing how people would like to highlight Mr. Russell.

Lavel White gave a presentation on the Documentary process; he is in the interview and filming process at this time. He has interviewed 12 people and has about 10 more to go. He has filmed many events in the community including those coordinated by Urban Strategies, Corn Island Archaeology, demo progress, the panel discussion, etc. He plans to begin editing in January and hopes to have a final product to show the community in April. He will be working on the best location for a community viewing. Lavel listed an array of people and events he has covered in the documentary.

Someone suggested the Old Russell Junior High School (currently the Russell Apartments owned by NDHC) be highlighted. Someone asked about the reason for deterioration after the 1960's that went down Muhammad Ali. Lavel said there will be a history highlight on the documentary. There was mention of a previous Federal/HUD building. Darcy will contact Krista Mills and Art Wasson to see if they know of any details about this. A highlight clip from Lavel was shown, which was the same clip shown at the October Panel Discussion.

Anne Bader and Dave Schatz gave a presentation from Corn Island on Archaeology. The community interaction has ceased partially due to the fencing around the site, so they are considering a way to get the community in for a viewing and discussion. Lately they have been experiencing bad weather conditions which is causing delays, but they are at the end of the process with only a couple weeks to go. Various slides were reviewed highlighting findings - over 200 items, of which 146 are posts and the rest are scatterings of things (i.e. cisterns, walkways, etc.). They are focusing on the content of the privies, to include:

- 12 wood-lined privies and 11 brick vault privies found so far. The outhouse would sit above the privy. The shallowest privy has been 12' under 6-8' of clay soil and then sand. The brick vault privies will get to 20' deep. Privies vary in width from 120cm to 4-5' in diameter. The reason for the sand is that Louisville was built on a glacial outwash plain that occurred about 10,000 years

ago. The White River used Ohio River's bed. You run into limestone when you hit the Highland area. It takes an entire day to empty a privy, and then much time to map, photograph, do drawings and clean up the items found. They showed many photos of this process and discussed how cisterns would collect rain water for use by residents, which was popular through the 1800's.

- They discovered a site where the Fitzbutlers lived – a husband/wife team who migrated from Canada to Louisville. Their parents were originally slaves who escaped to Canada. They had several structures on their lot (i.e. privies, a cistern, keyhole cellar - possibly an ice house). These were filled with coal cinder. Back then residents weren't allowed to put coal cinder in the city trash, so they disposed of it in other ways.
- They found a clay drain tile – an old sewer line, a pair of walkways that go off to the privies to the back of a lot. They think the one by drain pipe could have been an early wood-lined privy. At the back of this lot (#7), it was horribly disturbed with a jumble of demo rubble. It's approximately 8-12' wide and at least 8' deep. It was too unstable to explore beyond 8'.
- Anne presented slides about more residents they are researching. The first woman who got a medical degree in Louisville, her daughter also became a doctor; the first woman to pass KY Bar exam in 1904; Alexander Morris, nephew of Sheldon Morris who was the first African-American entrepreneur in Louisville who owned a barber shop and bath house in the original Louisville Hotel on Main Street in the oldest part of the city. He and his siblings were the freed slave children to Coronel John Morris, who was a Revolutionary War hero. They inherited property and money and moved to Louisville around 1830-40s. They may be some of the earliest property owners in the Beecher Terrace area. Still researching. Found saddle bag chimney base that predates any later neighborhood development. Found evidence they may have owned a farm on the land before it was developed. They found a photo in a privy on the Morris lot they were able to clean and view the lady in it. The frame style was popular between 1848-1853. Lot 2, artifacts, goal is to capture info from eastern European, especially Jewish folks. Doing research and trying to go forward into the families instead of backward. Ancestry.com has been very helpful in locating photos.
- Anne Bader was invited to Augusta, Georgia to participate in a symposium on public collaboration in archaeology. She presented on Beecher Terrace and how it is a perfect example of the community working together for the outcome. This tells us we are getting regional, if not national coverage on the project. Louisville Magazine published an article "Tossed and Found", Metro TV did a show, as well. Kathleen and others from the team met on-site with a JCPS representative to discuss educational curriculum. There is a model they can use, and ideas were discussed for artifact trunks or boxes that could be used by teachers in lesson plans. Next step is to determine timeframe and cost.

Beecher II residential (Cynthia - LMG and SHPO concurred there is no adverse effect for this part of the project. A slide was shown to explain updates to the original site plan drawing.

(Laura) A building was simply shifted from Liberty Ct & 11th to 9th street next to the new senior building. The reason supporting this decision was to avoid construction work around completed buildings and

residents. This change was a direct response to the question about homeownership units and the expansion of Baxter Community Center. Want to avoid building partial blocks. Has not materially changed Phase II – same unit count. The architect is working on a site plan with the city. The determination of no adverse effect remains, however, they will be consulting with SHPO because of a change in boundary.

Someone asked about the Park and buildings facing it. Gretchen clarified it would be a traditional Olmstead design for buildings being placed around a park.

Beecher III residential (Cynthia) – sent a letter to SHPO on Nov. 20th with the LMG determination of no adverse effect.

Gretchen gave a presentation of slides to show the new building design and inspirational photos that will avoid broken up blocks and create interaction with the streets and parks. We will have full streets between the buildings. Liberty St. will be larger than side streets and we are using the progressive street design recommended through National Best Standards. Crime prevention through environmental design is also being used.

We are following the community feedback of wanting to use historic materials with a contemporary take.

Phase III Site Plan (Gretchen) – Will consist of two plots caddy corner to one another. This phase will include a community pool and a four-story residential building facing 9th street which will complement the senior building. Gretchen showed elevations for buildings. LMG's Arborist has identified trees worth keeping and the team is working with this information. LMG's arborist has mapped the trees to show health, native trees, etc.

The location of future phases (IV-VI) are still to be determined – MBS and LCCC have an MOA and will possibly co-develop the 18th Street Corridor into mixed use with retail on ground level, and residential above. The corner block at Jefferson St. & 13th will be part of Phase V to be developed in 2021.

Someone asked about the tree-lined roads and if they will stay. Laura explained that the intention is to keep the trees, but it could be challenging in some areas depending on building placement.

Old Walnut Park – LMHA is in the process of purchasing the Porter Paint site and is considering this location for the replacement park.

Baxter Community Center (Gretchen) – Intention is to save the Baxter Community Center and we are working with Metro Park to create a building that would resolve the existing concerns (i.e. accessibility, etc.). We want to offer community services in the center and have it more connected to the park.

Layla mentioned a setup she saw in New York, where a senior building was next to a basketball court. The park area had benches and allowed the seniors and their grandchildren to be together in this setting. Gretchen concurred that having multi-generations together in the same space is nice and is what the community has asked for.

Someone asked about the plans for Baxter Square Park. Gretchen said LMG is working with the Olmsted Conservancy to bring it back to original design and have it as a passive park. The goal is to honor the cemetery (era 1780-1830), Louisville's first burial ground, and the people who were buried there.

Cynthia opened the room for questions – there were none.

Cynthia announced the next quarterly meeting will be held on March 7th, 2019. She also reminded the group that the comment period for comments on Phase III is still open.

Meeting adjourned.