

Section 106 Beecher Terrace, Fourth Consulting Parties Quarterly Meeting, June 6, 2019

Cynthia opened the meeting with a refresher on why we have quarterly Consulting Parties meetings.

Project Updates on Demolition Phase 1 + Beecher 1 Residential

Demolition Update (Kathleen covered since Laura was dropped from the call) – Review of map, Phase I blue area has been completed. Phase II of demo is highlighted yellow and has been divided into 3 subphases (2a, 2b, 2c). Phase 2a has been completed, 2b is beginning soon, if not already. Map needs updating to show building #21 in the correct phase (should be green not yellow). Phase 3 demo will not begin until relocation is complete which is predicted for the end of Sept. John Hawkins will send Cynthia the updated demo map and Kathleen will include the updated map and presentation on Vision Russell website.

Laura returned to the call and added that the Phase I senior building is under construction and projected to be completed next Fall Sept. 2020, to include both the senior and family management offices. Drawings were shown and referenced. Looking ahead at Phase III, there will be a community pool scheduled for 2021. There was a request to have this meeting on-site, but we realized there isn't much to see just yet. One could see any progress thus far by driving by the site.

Mitigation Activities Update for Stage I:

Western Library African American Archives – Natalie Woods

With libraries closing and other changes, progress on this project came to a temporary halt, until recently purchasing equipment. Western now has a scanner, CPU, monitor (on backorder), video capture device, and the Adobe licensing for the first machine – they will order a second machine in the future. Currently, there is enough server storage to get started with digitizing and have decided to use the Kentucky Digital Library site. New discoveries have been found in archives, including a binder of personal photographs of Reverend Blue. In order to save on costs, they decided to create their own website and will have full control of it. Soledad O'Brien filmed at Western during spring break, and Natalie was contacted by Serendipity Films who want to make a film about the importance of libraries in communities - Western will be featured in this film. Visions of Beecher Terrace will be coming up next and they are working on choosing panel participants based on the inquiries the team is receiving.

Documentary Film – Lavel D. White

A 15-min rough video sneak peek was shown. Residents discussed stories of growing up with struggles and how it shaped who they are now; the activity, sights and food memories of growing up at Beecher; memories/trauma of how things changed with Urban Renewal; living during the prime time of leaving windows and doors open and playing outside; the family feel/responsibility of the Beecher community - kids being raised by the village of Beecher; Baxter Center being crucial for the children and offering opportunity and entertainment; memories of bringing live plants and flowers to the community after seeing this when visiting family in other areas. The full-length video will be ~30-minutes and will include much more narrative, identifying the participants and showing more photos and activity. Should be final

by the end of June and will premier early Fall (Aug-Sept) with the community. Also working with Soledad O'Brien, she is coming to film again June 29th for Russell, A Place of Promise. Anne Bader mentioned a man who visited them often while digging and he had many stories and was very entertaining. John knew who she spoke of and will give Lavel his phone number. Gretchen mentioned the older photos LMHA owns of Beecher, Lavel is familiar and they will be included. Next CP meeting is Sept. 5th and he will bring the final product to show.

Louisville Story Program – Darcy Thompson

His project will be broader to include the whole Russell neighborhood and has a much later timeline for completion. Spent the last quarter meeting more residents, gathering photos and hearing stories. Still working on Nat Brown's archive and working with KY Historical Society – this is very emotional for the families and will unfold over the next year or so. Darcy spoke with one of Nat Brown's students who shared memories of his classes. Will next begin focusing on outdoor community spots. They have partnered with Central High School for a course offering and have 14 students signed up so far. They spent last quarter going thru transcription of oral history, one was from a person born in Russell in 1890 who spoke of memories of brothels in the area. Wanda Mitchell-Smith mentioned they know a lot of people he needs to speak to related to Churchill Downs. Darcy asked her to stay after to exchange information.

Data Recovery / Corn Island – Anne Bader

Public Participation / Corn Island – Anne Bader

- Bleacher wall – documentation was prepared by historians and it was good, but she felt there was a lot of emphasis on the mural and not much on the wall or baseball. Google imagery was very helpful in documenting the wall. Looking for people who played baseball at Beecher.
- Archeology – finished block 1. Reviewed a map of the exploration. Ended up with 229 features, still processing the artifacts (close to 12K artifacts). They will be back on blocks along 13th street from August- Sept, so they are hopeful weather cooperates to keep within demo timeline. Submitted a Management Summary to KHC and received a response so they are ready to move into the next blocks (ideally before the buildings are demolished). With buildings and large trees, they are concerned about getting to the lots they want to explore but doing site visits to determine their method.
- Public participation/education – Frazier Museum has a second Saturday program; the Sept. date will be focused on Beecher. Considering the archeology should be ongoing at that time, it is hopeful to have a field experience for that program. Also plan to have activities at the museum and Frazier is interested in having displays (temp and perm) at the museum. Corn Island is working on the presentation for Frazier. So far, they have given 9 presentations with over half being to the community and the others in professional settings. In touch with Gwen Henderson at KAS who sent all paperwork for education curriculum from Davis Bottoms to be used as a model to do similar type of work at Beecher. In touch with archeology firm in Canada working on a project with parallels to Beecher (i.e. Jewish community). Working together to exchange information to gather as much as they can on the Jewish community that was at Beecher in the past.

Educational Outreach Status Update- Kathleen O'Neil/Pamela Bischoff

The public education component of the mitigation activities will be based on the outputs from the other major components – archaeology, documentary, archives, and storybook. K-12 educational curriculum will be inquiry-based, and developed by JCPS teachers, under the leadership of the Curriculum Department. The Davis Bottom History Preservation project out of Lexington, KY is being utilized as a model for planning the scope of work for all public education mitigation activities. Also utilizing the Vision Russell website to disseminate information for all mitigation activities. Timeline – based on Letter of Resolution we are looking at summer 2019 to finalize the scope of work and Intergovernmental Agreement with LMHA/JCPS. JCPS can then subcontract with other partners through their own procurement processes. Discussion about the timeline. The curriculum and public education materials must be complete within 1 year of the final Archeology analysis and report.

Jay Stottman asked for clarification on the person/entity in charge of managing the curriculum (elements, focus, mission) and the budget to do so. Kathleen – JCPS is contractor doing work and they can work with other organizations, IGA is between LMHA and JCPS, budget is not clear as the scope of work is still being finalized. Pamela – the curriculum will be a teacher informed process. Once scope of work is complete, JCPS will lead the efforts. He asked if there are plans to incorporate someone with expertise in education and archeology? Kathleen explained that JCPS will have the ability to hire experts, as needed/desired. He asked for clarification on CNI projects, and what triggers Section 106/mitigation activities and where funding comes from for those projects. Kathleen explained this.

Jay asked JCPS more details about the offering of the curriculum to students. Rebecca explained -- JCPS is envisioning that two teachers from each level of education (elementary, middle and high schools) will work from their inspirations from the mitigation activities. They will combine this with the new standards for instruction, which will be in law on July 5, to write lessons for their grade levels. It's the goal to have everyone included in the conversation and to inspire others to record their own historical relevance.

Jay asked what the anticipated outcome is at the end of this? Rebecca explained that teachers would create Inquiry Design Modules that have a compelling question with supporting questions that lead to answering the compelling question. This is supported by sources and completing a task that helps build toward the answers and eventually taking it into their own lives. He expressed concerns with Davis Bottoms as teachers didn't always use it as they said they would, and he wants to make sure teachers will use it and have the best place for it to live. JCPS is creating room in the overall curriculum so teachers have the choice to do deep dives into their communities. The new standards reflect K-12 now, not just 4th grade.

SHPO staff mentioned that the questioning is exactly why the MOA was designed the way it was. They intentionally split out the education part from archeology survey so the education will have flexibility to grow and not rely on just the archeology findings. Jay expressed satisfaction with these answers.

Project Updates on Demolition Phase 2 + Beecher 2 Residential – Laura Kinsell-Baer

Beecher 2 will be the first family phase and a mixture of 1-2-3-bedroom flats in garden style buildings (maximum 3-story with no elevator). There are two-story townhouses that are attached – there will be no detached housing. A site plan was shown, and boundaries were reviewed with the group. Closing on the finance portion of Phase II in two weeks. Site is being prepped now for construction to begin. Projected completion date is around the same as senior building in 2020. Therefore, Phases I and II will be completed at the same time.

Project Updates Beecher 3 Residential – Laura Kinsell-Baer

Phase III – drawings were shown and explained. To make up for lost time and high expenses, the original Phases III and IV were combined into what is shown in the drawing. On 9th street across from the Phase I building, there will be a larger building to mirror the Phase I building with smaller units so there is a mix of 1 and 2-bedroom units located on the busier corridors and leaving townhomes (2-3 bedrooms) for families on interior blocks to create a more family-friendly atmosphere away from the higher traffic areas. MBS is still in conversations with Old Walnut Group about the Muhammad Ali Blvd. Corridor. Cynthia – we need to consult with SHPO for new DOE, which will carry-over to the next CP meeting.

An animation video was shown to give insight on what the completed Phases I-III at Beecher will look like.

Future Letter Resolution - Cynthia

Because there is potential adverse effect for work at Baxter Square Park (i.e. former cemetery) and Baxter Community Center (BCC), we may need another LOR. Both projects are just in preliminary planning phases while we understand/consider what we can/can't do and/or afford. Conversing with the County Attorney on any regulations/considerations related to the cemetery at Baxter Square Park. Once we have that information, we will work with Olmsted Conservancy to see how close we can get to original Olmsted design within the limitations we have. With the BCC, we are considering an addition to the building, so it can become

a functioning community center that meets the needs of the Russell neighborhood. We will need to issue an RFP and are working with LMHA to see what this may look like. Kathleen added that a memorial for those buried at Baxter Square Park will be included in this project. This will be one of the final phases for the site.

Cynthia closed the meeting, announcing the next meeting on September 5.