

### ***Beecher Terrace Consulting parties meeting, 9-5-19***

Cynthia: Welcome, introductions & recap of why we have these quarterly meetings

**Project Updates on Demolition + Beecher 1 Residential** (Ashley) – Making progress. The 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of demo will be complete in January 2020, we are just a few months away.

Bernard – Once relocation in Phase II is complete (by 9-30-19), MBS will install the fence for erosion control (required by MSD), and then Corn Island can begin exploration. Once exploration is complete, Phase III of demo will begin.

Cynthia – showed the latest drawings of the third residential phase and reminded the group that this is a conceptual site plan.

**Beecher 1/2 Residential** – Ashley showed a construction site photo and explained the progress of the Phase I building (exterior will be done by winter), the footers in place for Phase II building, and pointed out the location of Phase III.

Bernard added explanation that the Phase I building is L-shaped and 4-stories. Liberty St. will be extended and continue across 9<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> street. Worked with LMG to get a traffic light at 9<sup>th</sup> and Liberty, which is expected to help with the change of one-way/two-way here. Fisk Ct. will open to 9<sup>th</sup> Street but will have no light, and the island will still be there. John added that the name of Fisk Ct. will change to Fisk St.

### **Beecher 2 Update: Mitigation Activities Update for Stage I:**

*Western Library African American Archives* – Natalie Woods showed a photo of the new equipment they have purchased (i.e. 24" monitor, 12"x16" scanner). Working to install software for scanning – today's trial scan came out excellent. They can scan also now scan 35mm negatives. There is still more equipment to purchase in the future. The team is in discussions about the amount of storage space needed for the archive system. Natalie showed the old vs. new website and asked for feedback, and suggestions for what to call the archives – it was previously called "A Separate Flame" and for now they are using the same name. The archives currently highlight Reverend Blue, who ran Eastern and Western libraries, but they are going to add the history of Rachel Harris who ran the Children's Library. A staff person is doing genealogical work on her and has found she lived to be 100, outliving her husband and son. Natalie is meeting with Morton Atkinson, a local film maker, next week to discuss how he can play a role in to tell story of Western and the archives, and what his fees would be. They are working on a program to tell the history of Western Cemetery and encourage the community to help clean the cemetery. The program will include a tour and stories of who is buried there and in Eastern cemetery where Reverend Blue, Harvey Russell, Albert Meyzeek are buried. The latest "Visions of Beecher Terrace" event was very well received and included Corn Island reviewing some artifacts found during exploration. The people are still talking about this and so, Natalie wants to do another program in the future with just Corn Island and their findings.

**Documentary Film** – Lavel White discussed the progress of his film and showed a 5 min. clip. The July “Visions of Beecher Terrace” was one of 3 panels held so far – the clip was also shown at that panel. Lavel received an award for the work being done on his documentary so far. Working on the final pieces and talking with an editor to get a final release date by end of this month. Recently had interviews with Senator Gerald Neal and Darcy Thompson for the video, as well. It will remain a 30min piece.

**Louisville Story Program** – Darcy Thompson spoke about their time in this quarter being spent wrapping up another project, but also moving forward with research for this project. They have focused on learning about everyday people in Nat Brown’s photos. He showed slides of photography by Nat Brown, prior to his fame in the area, as a sampling of what they are finding (these need to be archived, as well). Trying to get the stories behind the photos and reaching out to other photographers. Continuing to gather photographs out of personal albums – everyday lives of people who lived at Beecher Terrace several decades ago. They currently have ~200 pages of raw narrative to be shaped and developed. Continuing research thru oral histories at UofL from the 70-80’s – getting good contacts and good stories from that. They started classes at Central H.S. and have 12 young authors writing great pieces. Starting a weekly writing workshop at Russell Apartments soon and expect this to be mostly elderly participation as they have more time to devote to this. Next quarter with the nicer weather, they will focus on the interesting outdoor spaces in Russell.

**Data Recovery / Corn Island** (Anne Bader) – the state level documentation for the bleacher wall has been submitted to the SHPO but no comments back yet. Completed field work for Old Walnut Street Park. Consistent stream of communication with people in Canada on the Fitzbutler family that is relevant to what has been found/done here. They have washed all artifacts pulled from the park, Phases I & II have been washed and catalogued in 28 boxes. For Phase III, all artifacts have been washed and placed in 61 boxes, of which 9 are cataloged. A lot of work to be done yet.

**Public Participation / Corn Island** (Anne Bader) – have held 10 public and professional presentations, so far. On Oct. 7<sup>th</sup>, they are having an archaeology day event at Frazier Museum, and will do some focus on Beecher Terrace. Focusing on developing 5-10 kits for educational/class use. Working on MOA with LMHA to plan a Beecher Terrace public event, which means the next phase of work may not begin until mid-Oct. Working on logistics. Showed slides to show what the classroom kits will look like. Want to get artifacts in the hands of kids, accompanied by a list of questions the kids will work thru. Working on themes of boxes for children and other displays on particular people.

Looking ahead at Block 10 – they expect to encounter houses on larger lots, probably the more wealthy (i.e. white/European people, native born people). Block 12 – looking at what lots to explore but have identified some interesting people who lived there; including, William Johnson was African-American, owned/published the KY Standard newspaper, a number of black doctors, the first African-American licensed undertaker, German and Irish immigrants, and a few Jewish families being targeted.

Jay asked about the kits and if they are working with JCPS for storage and management. Anne said they are working on logistics for all of this and working thru ideas. Jay said the hardest part is getting it into the hands of kids. Anne mentioned the prehistoric kits they offer now are going well. Currently Anne

holds them, but this process could be made more simple/convenient for teachers. Currently Corn Island holds those boxes, but she does not suggest that same process for the kits being created for this endeavor.

**Educational Outreach Status Update (Rebecca Ingram & Pam Bischoff)** – LMHA, JCPS, and Corn Island met this week to further discuss the different components to the curriculum/educational kits and what this would look like. They looked at the inquiry-based learning at Elementary, Middle and High School levels. They looked at Frazier Museum, Beecher Terrace, and other sites within Russell that could hold the boxes and offering camps at Frazier Museum as a pilot activity. The next step is that each of them will look at the scope of work, putting numbers to it and determining what resources would be needed to make this happen, and drafting a final Intergovernmental Agreement. Future meetings are being arranged. Rebecca said JCPS is interested in the local connections mainly because the new standards support Kentucky's K-12, and to have kids understand all the skills, thinking and work that is involved in all the projects just discussed. They need to know these are possibly careers for them, and to understand their society and their world, and why our city is the way it is today, among many other things. Working closely with 6 teachers (2 from each school level) who will get an in-depth lesson on how to deal with inquiry process, and new foundations on how to look at questions, tasks and sources. The inspiration will come from all the work being done that you have heard about tonight. Building upon the kits being created by Corn Island – these will be opportunities for inspiration for teachers to build those focused inquiry questions that will allow students to explore the multiple elements that have been unveiled. Sitting here tonight listening to the work being done in the community, she jotted many questions that came to her mind. Our ultimate goal is that students will take informed action and understand how they as citizens can be part of their community, part of what is going on in their city, and making their own histories. We want to inspire conversations we need students to have in the classroom.

Jay offered advice based on what he saw in the Davis Bottoms experience. He felt it is imperative that an archaeologist be involved in the question forming process as they know the correct questions to ask. The collaboration will make it better, and that position should be funded. He also suggested not to be afraid to address race and economics, ask how much they can relate to the kids being discussed in the curriculum. In his past project, they were hesitant to discuss, but it is where the students wanted to go. Don't be afraid to allow controversial communication to occur. He offered his help with this project. Anne talked about the idea of making a short video of each person and their role in the project and share those clips and having everyone understand the process, who would come in and give lectures and talks. She believes we need tight parameters in the program so it is clear about the involvement, and what it will entail. Jay mentioned teacher culture and how resources are used/not used. Resources will naturally start to fall away from use. He suggested they actively do things to ensure these kits will continually be used.

Rebecca – JCPS has a racial equity policy (an amazing benefit) social studies was specifically names as a responsibility, an amazing benefit to this particular project. This open doors to access things in their own communities. Students will see themselves (their story) in the film, archives and story being done. They are offering professional learning for all teachers in JCPS to enhance their comfort in the

intellectually safe space. The beauty of the standards we have is that topics are no longer in silos. History, Geography and Economics specifics were written specifically to sharpen each other.

Pam – also discussing what other contributions can be added and what consultations need to take place. Helping in reporting and illustrating what everyone is bringing to the table.

Darnell asked about grade level and parent involvement. Jay said the school did that type of communication. Rebecca reiterated the reason why they wanted the 2 teachers per school level, the conversations will be reflected in the curriculum at all grade levels.

### **Discussion of Revised Concept Design/Determination of Effects Associated with Beecher 3 Residential**

(Cynthia) – In the November CP meeting last year, the residential Phase 3 drawings were shown, 2 weeks ago we sent a new letter and a packet of information and new inspiration for buildings. The project area for Beecher 3 has been expanded and per the guidelines, we must inform SHPO. LMG determined no additional adverse effects with this change. At this meeting, we are consulting with the group. Kathleen added that we have simply combined the former Phase III and Phase IV into one new Phase III. This will help us make-up lost time in the schedule and see a cost savings. The neighboring church, Baxter Community Center (BCC) and park are not adversely impacted by the change, and so, LMG determined no additional adverse effect. LMG will send SHPO a new letter with the correct terminology and the 30 days for comment period will begin.

Someone asked about the BCC expansion and if it is included in the phase being presented today. Kathleen explained it is not being included in any of the housing phase at this point, but will be a future separate project. So far, we have only spoken about housing phases...the BCC and park will be a separate phases all together. All the phases and stages can be confusing with all the moving parts.

**Future Residential Phases 4 & 5 Update** – Ashley gave a general update. Had LCCC meeting today that was very productive and continuing conversations with them about the M. Ali facing blocks. Also meeting with KHC next week at the conference to discuss financing the future phases.

Cynthia gave a reminder about the next meeting on the first Thursday evening in December (the 5<sup>th</sup>). Anne asked Cynthia to add someone to the CP meeting notifications. Kathleen added that we will be posting notes and the presentation from tonight's meeting on the Vision Russell website.

*Conclusion of Meeting*