

Beecher Terrace Consulting Parties meeting, 12-5-19

Welcome, introductions and purpose of the meeting (Cynthia)

Project Updates (Laura/MBS)

Demolition Phase 2 update: There are five buildings south of Baxter Community Center. Cynthia mentioned the process for wrecking permits and the 30-day hold timing.

Beecher Residential Phase I updates: A slide was shown of Phase I, named The 450 Roy Wilkins Avenue Building. The rendering shown is not up-to-date with color and brick selections; LMG and the architects are working through options. Bernard takes photos regularly from the 18th floor at LMHA to show progress from a bird's eye view – a recent photo was shown.

Beecher Residential Phase II updates: There are 3-4 buildings underway, the framing team completes one building at a time to ensure accuracy. All building pads and foundations are complete. Photos of progress were shown.

Beecher Resident Phase III updates: Phase III includes multiple blocks and has been combined with Phase IV to save on time and cost. In the photo shown, Laura pointed out where the resident pool may be placed. This phase will be a mix of townhomes and garden/walk-up buildings with no elevator, maxing at 3 stories. Along Roy Wilkins Avenue will be a dense, 4-story building with mostly one-bedrooms and some two-bedrooms. This design will be consistent with the Phase I building to maintain the density of that corridor. The goal is to create a new gateway into Russell of denser development. Hoping to close Phase III in June so they can start construction mid to late summer. It will be a bigger phase, taking about two years for construction; however, the blocks are typically turned over one-by-one and people can move into their units while other blocks are under construction.

Future Residential Phases: MBS, LMG and LCCC are in discussions about the Muhammad Ali blocks. The corner of Roy Wilkins Avenue will be designed for commercial and residential, but the other three consecutive blocks are still under discussion for development (i.e. homeownership, etc.). The plan for this area continues to evolve as communications continue within the community and stakeholders. The site plan will be further solidified by the next quarterly meeting in March 2020.

Bernard mentioned that Liberty St. Connector will continue through the site instead of stopping at Roy Wilkins, and the development name will remain Beecher Terrace after the community vote was held.

Cynthia added that since the last meeting, SHPO concurred that there are no additional adverse effects.

Mitigation Activities updates for Stage 1

Western Library African American Archives (Natalie Woods) – The new website is active and it was done in-house. Feedback on making it the most usable is welcome. They are looking at adding a function on the website to make an archival appointment. A producer from the Ken Burns show recently requested archives for a PBS documentary. Slides showed the new equipment and room setup.

A program was held on the Eastern cemetery, including a highlight on Reverend Blue. According to burial records, his burial site is in Eastern Cemetery, but he has no headstone. A headstone will be ordered and placed for him and others identified nearby.

Working on an exhibit for African America history, specifically people in the medical profession.

The scanning software chosen will create archives in a searchable manner. Everything they have the right to make public can be found on the website. Still digitizing things, even if they don't have the right to share it publicly. In the process of creating a digitation policy. At this time, Western is not charging for use of their equipment, but instead, asking for credit/acknowledgement. Plans to order more equipment soon, to include another computer. Cemetery records are at UofL and she has spoken with someone there, but still in discussions. Working with Savannah Darr on offering programming at Eastern Cemetery and offer tours to show where people are buried. They want to keep the dialog and history going for Russell.

Documentary Film (Lavel White) – He was able to get *The Beecher Terrace Story* under 30 min. and presented to the group this evening, but it is still in draft version. Welcomes opinions and feedback. Still needs to do editing but has a goal to be complete for a public viewing in late Jan/early Feb. Metro TV will also air the documentary.

Louisville Story Program (Darcy Thompson) – continues to engage residents, has some rough audio and over 300 pages in narrative, but none are polished for release. Reviewed slides and what was going on in the slides (i.e. 80-year old daughter of Nat Brown, Jeff Hancock who took free classes from Nat Brown, the students at Center, etc.). Working thru the process to tell the story. Talking to UofL about a long-term partnership. Another daughter of Nat Brown has some original cartoon work he did, she is in Maryland, but they hope to get the work in hand. The program at Central High is still going strong and he still feels it will be separate than Cornerstone of Russell.

In talks with Louisville public media about a platform to amplify the work being done. They have a box of photos (~8 cu. ft.) which are copies requested by family that were never claimed/delivered. They all have names on them and offers the chance to return them to owners, and open the opportunity to interview them for Russell connections.

Mr. Brown was added to the Distinguishable Hall of Fame in the last year or so.

Archaeological Data Recovery/Corn Island (Ann Bader): The weather has caused a small delay, but once the fence and erosion control are in place, they will begin exploration of Phase III area. In the meantime, they have been researching the digging area and also looking into the Phase I-II artifacts further. The area on Jefferson Street between 12-13th street was the home of many immigrants from many cultures. Anne explained the specific people they intend to focus on. The team is unsure how successful they will be in identifying lots, as items will likely be buried much deeper than in previous phases. Community interaction will be adversely affected by weather, so there is discussion about how to engage the community in other ways (i.e. using BCC for displays and discussions, using Frazier for main activities and public event, offer tours as needed and schedule more in the spring). Since the last

quarterly meeting, Corn Island has continued public and professional talks, and did a podcast with Louisville Public Radio. Anne said everywhere they go they find people with ties to Beecher Terrace. An educational group visited Corn Island's office to look through the collections, (several thousand artifacts have been collected), to help determine what kind of display they want to have.

Educational Outreach Status Update (Kathleen) – Rebecca Ingram isn't present due to other JCPS obligations, but she is working with JCPS' Purchasing and Contracts Dept. to develop an IGA. Jay offered his assistance.

Next quarterly meeting is tentatively scheduled for March 5th.

Conclusion of meeting.