

Consulting Parties Meeting Notes, 9/3/2020

Cynthia welcomed the attendees to the ninth Consulting Parties meeting, led introductions and reviewed the purpose for these quarterly meetings. Federal funds are being used on the Beecher Terrace site and an adverse effect was determined (i.e. historical property and cultural resources being disturbed/removed) requiring a Programmatic Agreement and Section 106 process. Today we will hear from the various mitigations being done on the site through the Section 106 process.

Project Updates on Demolition (*Laura Kinsell-Baer*) – Messer just completed demo of Building 21 – it was saved until the end since it provided power west of 12th Street. Laura reviewed a map showing the layout of Phases, and progress of each, including abatement going on above ground and the need for remediating steam pipes underground. Cynthia added that the demo process has been coordinated so that archaeology and demolition can work concurrently by breaking the site into north/south.

Beecher 1,2,3 Residential (*Laura Kinsell-Baer*) – Photo shown was taken in July, it is a little outdated but gives the sense the progress and construction. Laura reviewed the buildings shown in the photo and explained where other phases will be and their bedroom sizes.

Future Residential Phases 4 & 5 Update - The graphic shown in the slideshow is the master site plan, but this could change. Hoping to close Phases IV/V in one year and we need to look at the determination of effect and will discuss further during the December meeting.

Mitigation Activities Update for Stage 1:

Western Archives (Natalie Woods) – Natalie was furloughed which slowed progress on the archives at the Western Library. Since returning to work, she has been going through Reverend Blue's papers. She has been instructed to devote most of her time to Curbside Service at this time, but she will get back to archival work as quickly as she can. Hoping to get some items digitized within a month and she is doing research for Roots 101 as time allows. She is questioned regularly about tutoring for students at the library – unfortunately this is not offered at this time, but they are trying to do some NTI services online and offer some homework help (kids can get a 90-min appointment). The team is trying to get creative for offering this assistance. What is obvious and being realized during this time of shutdown and limited services is that the library holds much value to the public. People are constantly knocking on the door.

Beecher Terrace Documentary (Lavel White) – As of today, the film has had 8,054 views on YouTube. Metro TV has aired it and KET has three showings scheduled for Sept. 7, 10 and 25. There is much conversation (positive and negative) in the community about Russell and the revitalization efforts. In the future when the COVID situation subsides, Lavel would like to host community events and conversations to hear the dialogue from the community. He has also had much interest in continuing the BT Story and discussing the Gentrification vs. Revitalization

efforts since the Breonna Taylor case has come to light. He looks forward to telling another story once all mitigation activities have taken place. Layla George offered to help publicize this, and Lavel will follow up with her.

Louisville Story Program - Darcy was not able to attend the meeting, but he sent slides of photos and the progress update. Cynthia reviewed the slides of recent photos discovered, a photo intro of the recent graduates of the Central High students who authored "The Fights We Fought Have Brought Us Here", and the activity that has occurred during the current year. Although COVID-19 put a hold on photo scanning, they have recently resumed. Russell residents generated 55 pages of new writing. Close to launching a social media project that will make meaningful connections and generate rich narratives. For the upcoming quarter, the team will focus very heavily on outreach, use technology to begin piloting new content remotely, and will conduct more historical/archival research.

Data Recovery/Public Participation (Anne Bader) – The banner explaining the onsite activity has been reinstalled. The team completed eight lots on Block 12 this week and have started on the 6 lots to be completed on Block 10. Progress is steady and the work is expected to be complete in the next month. Anne gave a breakdown of the lots and what was found, including 28 privies – 25 of which were excavated. Although these lots are tiny, one lot had seven privies on it. They located more privies than expected, but the findings have been typical and consistent. Anne reviewed slides, including how close they are working to buildings which is why demo and archaeology had to work on different blocks in order to make progress simultaneously. Anne spoke to the significant people who lived on the lots, including Reverend Martin who had no descendants but adopted three children. Another was a family who came from Germany in 1859 and the team has been able to locate some of his descendants. In the past, work focused on identifying people and then go backwards to look at their heritage. Now they identify the people and then go forward to find people of today and get their stories and history. We want to move away from finding hard facts to more of the human side of telling stories. Other updates include: Contact with the Canadian family of Sarah Fitzbutler; working with Yvonne Jones, a black professor who has done research on BT in the past; collaboration with UofL to offer a college course and inviting students of various ethnicity/culture to help do aspects of the research, such as using newspaper.com to help humanize some facts and tell a story of what they are finding in their own words. She hopes they can come to the next CP meeting and tell what they have found. Students will be assigned people from the BT complex and they will research and write a paper for class credit and the papers will be included in the Data Recover research. During the month of September, KY and IN celebrate archaeology. Corn Island is planning to have the excavation open by appointment on Fridays in September. She invited those in the CP meeting as well. The Jeffersontown office will be open for appt. on Wednesdays where the public can look thru artifacts from BT. Pam will distribute this to BT residents, and this will also be announced in the Frazier newsletter.

Educational Outreach Status Update (Rebecca Ingram, Pam Bischoff) – A meeting was held between JCPS, Frazier and LMHA to narrow the scope of work for JCPS and to get a contract solidified. July 1, 2021 is the earliest date Frazier could begin this project, but it could run thru June 30, 2022. Discussion on what could be highlighted included: displays/artifact boxes from the archaeology activities, have a screen showing of the Beecher Terrace Story, displays of archival work from the Western Library, etc. Michael Jones book on Russell will come out soon. There is a meeting with Anne Bader soon to discuss the timeline. This will be the first time we have been able to talk about public education piece in person since February. We envision an IGA going to LMHA Board in Dec., then to JCPS in Jan./Feb. to wrap it up. All the activities in the community are creating synergy with what is going on at Frazier's West of 9th exhibit in May 2021 – we are hoping to mesh it all together.

Lori mentioned that we could do great things with social justice and archaeology (i.e. Breonna Taylor case). She thinks this is a perfect opportunity to create things on social justice that may have been ignored in this part of town for quite some time. Anne added that as they started to get into newspaper articles, they saw struggles from 100 years ago and realizing how things haven't changed much. The media sensationalized things in 1800 as they do now, which spurred us to think along the social justice lines, as well. Pam suggested having descendants record conversations or be on a panel.

Darnell asked about the area along the northside of Muhammad Ali and would like to see a convertible unit that addresses mixed-use building. Laura (MBS) said there are live-work units planned for this area and they are looking at a group that is interested in commercial development along Muhammad Ali. As we get further along on this proposal, we will update the group on this, and Laura said they can touch more on this during the December meeting. Gretchen added that the group is very conscious of bringing commercial back to the corridor, LCCC has been doing a lot of work for the Business Plaza and there are several other projects underway in the neighborhood. Darnell appreciated being heard. He grew up in West Louisville and remembers the riots in 1968 and doesn't see much difference between this one and the one before. He has spent his life working on urban neighborhoods. He understands the need to meet replacement units, etc. but asked that the group allow for creativity along Muhammad Ali so that West End culture connects to downtown. He is glad to hear what the group is saying and is confident there will be a resurgence. Louisville is the economic engine of KY and we should be more dynamic in what we come up with. He feels it is hard to talk to people about envisioning a new neighborhood when all they may know is within 6-8 blocks of their house. He appreciates all the staff and time being spent on this project. Betsy appreciates what Darnell said because many people do not realize how aesthetics and architecture affect them psychologically and emotionally. She commented that the continuity of the West End architectural is important as it can be place-making. Laura commented on the photo in a slide that showed the process we went thru to get input from the community a couple of years ago. The designs used are consistent across the site based on the feedback a couple of years ago.

Next quarterly meeting is scheduled for December 3rd, at this time we are unsure if it will be virtual or in-person. This meeting was recorded and will be put on the VR website. Email questions to Cynthia as they come up.

Conclusion of meeting