

## **Beecher Terrace Consulting Parties Meeting 14 Notes, 12-2-2021**

**Welcome & Introductions** by Cynthia Elmore. Cynthia gave a summary for the purpose of these quarterly meetings

### **Project Updates on Demolition**

Laura with MBS – Demolition is complete, steam tunnels were a large piece, but all have been excavated, backfilled and compacted.

### **Beecher 1 - 5 Residential**

Beecher Phase I – leased and operating, a piece of original art (mixed media piece) by Elmer Lucille Allen was replicated in a wallpaper treatment in the building's stairwell. Enhances the open staircase in the common area (billiards table, fireplace, etc.). An aerial photo was shown of the development.

Beecher Phase II – First Family phase, 1, 2 and 3-BR apartments. Mix of townhomes (2-story) and garden apartments (flats, walk-ups).

Beecher Phase III – Large phase, which includes the large 1 and 2-BR apartment building on Roy Wilkins which has a elevator and great views of downtown.

Beecher Phase IV-V – will be along Muhammad Ali Boulevard.

### **Mitigation Activities Update for Stage I**

Western Library African American Archives – Natalie Woods

West of 9<sup>th</sup> exhibit at Frazier Museum. Lavel presented his film to a large turnout. Natalie had a table to speak about the Library. This led to more interest from a group coming to tour in July 2022; they will start at the Frazier exhibit followed by the Western library. Hoping this leads to more interest and opportunities. Natalie has a mini exhibit on 1<sup>st</sup> floor of library to spark interest for Frazier exhibit. Hopes to have all Rev. Blue's documents uploaded to the website next week. In archives, came across a tour guide of historical landmarks in Louisville's West end. Found a painting that is on loan elsewhere for an exhibit.

John – Harlan Bartholomew was one of the first city planners in America. Worked on several plans in Louisville in the 1920s. In 1930s he wrote an assessment of the situation in West Louisville, specifically in the Russell neighborhood, called "The Negro Housing problem in Louisville". John summed up Bartholomew's premise - that African Americans who lived in Russell did not have the desire to make their lives better so we should take it upon ourselves to tear it down and rebuild their housing. Bartholomew followed this up with Urban Renewal plans in 1950s that established Louisville's Eastern, Western and Urban Renewal districts. West Urban Renewal district stretched from 6<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> streets. He wrote the first comprehensive plan for Louisville. Josh Poe's research on red lining describes Bartholomew's work and its impact on the city. Natalie has made Bartholomew's this document a searchable PDF in archives.

**The Beecher Terrace Story** –Lavel D. White, unable to attend tonight's meeting. Continues to share Beecher Terrace's Story, and the film is still getting interest.

### **Louisville Story Program – Darcy Thompson**

Darcy and team were not able to be a part of the Frazier Day event. Rebecca Ingram at JCPS reached out to partner in putting the social back into social studies. Working with teachers on how to work cultural history into curriculum/programs. Put together first training in early November. Added a new staff person 2 weeks ago – came from Cities United and Russell: Place of Promise project. Next year will have more capacity with part-time help from Walt Smith from West of 9<sup>th</sup>, he will bring younger folks into the project. Hope to have manuscript done by end of 2022. Book will come out in 2023. Over the last quarter the team did fieldwork interviewing folks, photo scanning, etc. Several photos and their stories were shown. Worked on the Defender project and began digitizing photos by Frank Stanley, Sr. that have been in UofL archives. Continued digging into gospel music and digitized couple hundred records.

Work slated for next quarter – edit the materials gathered so far, may obtain new materials, make final decisions about editorial framework. Leaning toward a Cornerstone idea – there are many layers of prominent families and people from very different backgrounds.

### **Data Recovery / Corn Island – Anne Bader**

Closing in finishing artifact analysis. Collected a total of 169 boxes, have 20+ left; hope to finish by end of 2021 but may go into Jan 2022. UK will curate all artifacts permanently, ideally wanted to keep them in Louisville, but the price was significantly lower at UK. Any professional can make an appointment to look at artifacts; unsure if public can do this. Doing detailed research (i.e. deed and chain of title), started outlining the report and drafting sections. Report focus will be on connections to occupations. Twice in the history of this location, the Black population has been displaced through Urban Renewal. In the first case, the neighborhood history has become largely erased and is now invisible, but we want to bring it back to life. In the second, we are working to ensure history lives on.

Work for upcoming quarters: two sets of specialized analyses...plants and bones. Continue having conversations and coordination with Black community. Has seen lack of participation from West Louisville residents so far, and want to bring more people in to tell their own stories. Corn Island wants to know more about what the people want to see from them.

### **Public Participation / Corn Island – Anne Bader**

Public Ed and Outreach – Family Day at Frazier, had a booth for public with artifacts from Beecher Terrace. Installed an exhibit at Frazier which will be there until Sept. 2022. Presented in New Albany, IN - “Digging for a Promised Land” – connections with the North and Canada. JCPS staff came out to discuss their curriculums and matching artifacts to their goals. Pam – teachers are still working on curriculum questions before their artifact boxes can be created. Lots of room for creative ideas for displays around Beecher (i.e. artifacts, basketball goal/scoreboard, etc).

Presenting at the National conference in April 2022. Will hear update on this in June 2022 meeting.

Corn Island is scanning a large amount of artifacts for the report - these can be put online. The report is full of research data. Anne/Cynthia said it is probably a good idea in the future to have a simplified version for the lay person to consume.

### **Baxter Community Center/Stage 5 Update – John Hawkins**

Planning for the renovation and addition to the Baxter Community Center. Renderings were shown. The addition will be mostly glass and accessible (i.e. elevator, etc.). Working with architect on designs and drawings. Recently provided updates to the SHPO including: 1) rear façade – keeping existing single

doors instead of proposed double doors, as the SHPO felt the double doors changed the historical look too significantly. 2) The existing mural can be removed. It was created in 1984 under Metro Murals, and is the last of a series of five murals that were located at public housing sites throughout the city. A new or updated mural will be considered through a similar community engagement process as other murals.

3) Rear windows openings will remain, but filled in. Brick will be offset, to highlight the window shape and location.

Rec'd determination of no adverse effect by SHPO.

Vision Russell website will stay updated on this information.

**Next Quarterly Meeting – Thursday, March 3, 2022**