

Consulting Parties Meeting Notes, 3-5-22

Welcome & Introductions - Savannah Darr led this meeting; she will be leading meetings now, since Cynthia Elmore's departure from LMG. Also, on the call were Matt Yagle with the SHPO to help with above ground, and Nicole Konkol with the SHPO to help with below ground.

Beecher Residential Update

Phase III – over 90% complete; having supply chain issues with appliances; holding back next phase of units from being ready. Completion still slated for early summer.

Phase IV (includes former Phase V) – 210 units; submitted pre-application to Kentucky Housing Corporation for 4% tax credit and gap funding for National Housing Trust Fund. Should hear back by end of March 2022. Full application due in May, but McCormack Baron Salazar plans to have it submitted by end of April 2022 in hopes to gain some time. Emily – part of expected delay has to do with FHA financing and backlog on their side. Targeted an earlier schedule, but reality is likely a closing in late 2022. Doing everything we can to keep it from rolling over to early 2023.

Mitigation Update for Stage I

Western Library African American Archives – Natalie Woods – Rev. Thomas Fountain Blue Papers are completely digitized. LFPL is currently doing other highly requested docs. Next on the list is the Cotter papers for Professor Joseph Cotter, Sr. & Jr. Natalie has been on WLKY and Spectrum News for Black History month. She has another interview scheduled with KET on March 14th. Natalie will put links to the archives in the chat.

Link to Rev. Thomas Fountain Blue Papers: <https://kdl.kyvl.org/digital/collection/lfpl-revblue>

Additional General Archival Materials: <https://kdl.kyvl.org/digital/collection/lfpl-western>

The Beecher Terrace Story –Lavel D. White unable to attend this call but Natalie reported that last Saturday he and Natalie had a young black storytellers film festival and Lavel showed his documentary. Over 70 people were in attendance.

Louisville Story Program –Darcy Thompson – lots of editing happening. Significant areas of the book are nearly done. Should have completed manuscript to the book designer by end of the year and have it published by Spring 2023. Regarding the Gospel project, they have digitized close to 600 songs from vinyl records – it has become it's own project. Hope for a big release in 2023. Had to find someone out of state to digitize the old reels of tape (showed a photo in presentation). A resident has been holding on to the reels for over 40 years. John asked about Frank Morman on a photo shown; he was subject of major lawsuit when he was trying to save his gas station which was the only one in the area. Darcy will look further into this.

Data Recovery / Corn Island – Anne Bader, Matt and Nicole Dave has left Corn Island and is now working at the SHPO. She had hoped to get the report done by Fall 2022, but now that she is short staffed, it may be pushed closer to the hard deadline. They have finished the artifact analysis, over 40K pieces. Biggest focus now is trying to decide how to organize and structure the report. Have 2 sets of analyses that are still out – has to do with the seeds and bones that came from privies. Not going to do them from every privy but will have them sampled them by specialists to include in the report.

Public Education and Outreach – Rebecca Ingram welcomed Nicole Brown on the call. She is one of the educators creating an inquiry design model (IDM) being inspired by revitalization and her own personal connections with the neighborhood. Each IDM will have 1 compelling question and 3-4 supporting questions. Teachers have aligned 3-5 sources with each supporting question being inspired by the live artifacts that currently exist in the neighborhood and a past artifact. This will also include findings by Natalie, stories by Darcy’s team and Lavel’s documentary. It’s going to be interesting to see how they pull it all together. Hopes to show 2nd drafts of the IDM at our next CP meeting in June 2022. Frazier museum, along with Corn Island’s work on the West of 9th exhibit, will be hosting a teacher event this summer. Will be working over the next couple of weeks to plan the event – teachers will experience all the information and view the BT Story. They will then talk about designing their ideas and implementing them in the classroom.

Despite COVID challenges, JCPS is working with Corn Island to put more parameters around the artifact boxes, and how to use them within curriculum.

Baxter Community Center/Stage 5 Update – John Hawkins mentioned for the newcomers to the call that the Vision Russell website has a plethora of information about this project. The team has been working closely with SHPO throughout design process to rehab and expand upon the BCC. Received a Determination of No Adverse Effect on the project. SHPO requested a temporary fence around the northern side of the building that backs up to the park to protect the building during renovation. (NOTE: a temporary fence has been installed around the building’s entire perimeter.) Residents and neighborhood stakeholders have provided feedback to our team as we have designed and made plans; and continue to meet as needed. LMHA anticipates releasing a Request for Bids for a General Contractor in March/April 2022, with construction slated to start in June and a projected completion date in December 2023.

Darnell asked about plans for the Muhammad Ali stretch. Kathleen responded showing the site plan as a reference. Blocks from 10-13th are rental housing along M. Ali, with five Live/Work units currently included in the housing plan mix. Block at 9th and M. Ali is still TBD. Discussions between MBS and potential developers are occurring but there are no firm plans at this point. A portion of the former Porter Paints site on Muhammad Ali closest to the railroad tracks, has been reserved for future commercial/retail development, as well. Hoping to execute IGA with LMG and Metro Parks to begin work with design firm to begin construction drawings of the park that will be developed on the remainder of the site. Drawings will take 5-6 months; LMG hopes to get it out for bids later this year. Metro Parks will manage this project. Darnell said he has witnessed much activity on the west side of BCC and by Molo Village, and is very excited to see how all this comes together.

Next Consulting Parties meeting will be June 2, 2022.

Conclusion of call