

## LCRA Focus Group Meeting Notes: **Historic Preservation**

Date: Tuesday, March 14, 2017

Location: Lincolnville Museum & Cultural Center, 102 MLK Ave.

Time: 6pm-8pm

Meeting Facilitator: Toni Wallace

- Introduction:
  - Ms. Wallace moved from Ft. Lauderdale, where her old neighborhood was demolished to make way for high-rise condos. She wants to prevent this from happening in Lincolnville
  - Historic homes in Lincolnville help tell its story and preserve the memory
  - Current infill development does not fit in the neighborhood
  - What needs to be saved? How are we going to do it?
  - What should Lincolnville be in 50 years?
- Discussion:
  - Recognize and appreciate on the history
  - The neighborhood doesn't look like how it used to
  - What should we save at a minimum?
    - Houses
    - Streets
    - Trees
  - Eddie Vicker's Park needs historic designation which leads to economic benefit
  - What do we like about Lincolnville?
    - The neighborhood feel
    - Walkability
    - People care about the neighborhood and its history
  - Appreciation of original structures, where there is a lot of potential for restoration
  - Rather see houses refurbished than demolished
  - It used to be better in Lincolnville – people used to take care of their homes
  - Cant retain the younger population: There is nothing keeping them in St. Augustine. Younger people would like to live in Lincolnville, but there aren't good employment opportunities for them.
  - Track back the history of the historic houses (chain of title research)
  - Possibly place plaques on historic homes
  - Preservation is expensive – provide funds to help people rehabilitate homes
  - Encourage realtors to communicate preservation objectives to buyers
  - Help families restore their homes if faced with demolition
  - Lincolnville atmosphere is the buildings and spaces in between
  - Porches are no longer used for people to sit outside and talk to their neighbors – there has been a change in the way people are living

- Implement a design overlay district to mandate porches
- Misconception about design control – does not mean you have to change anything existing
- Neglected homes are owned by children/younger generations that have moved away to larger cities
- Can we use an overlay to prohibit multi-family or student housing?
- Ordinance for limiting number of residents in a building and parking requirements
- Implement a residential zone parking system
- Preserve the fence mural on Washington Street
- St. Augustine is a living city – need to accommodate residents and tourists
- The Lincolnville Museum and Cultural Center (LMCC) is trying to bring people into the neighborhood to tell the story of Lincolnville. Mr. & Mrs. Phillips are very passionate about the LMCC and have many programs to get people into the museum.
- Need to recognize the history and importance of the Excelsior Building
- Lincolnville Redevelopment Plan Amendment
  - The CRA could fund a consultant to develop overlay guidelines for Lincolnville. The overlay guidelines could be administered by staff or a citizen board
  - Who is interested in a design overlay district?
    - 5 voted yes
    - 2 voted no
    - Majority undecided
  - Who is interest in the CRA offering Historic Preservation Mechanisms?
    - 6 voted yes
    - 0 voted no
    - Majority undecided