

CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA

Lincolntonville Community Redevelopment Area Steering Committee
April 19, 2021

The Lincolntonville Community Redevelopment Area Steering Committee met for its regularly scheduled meeting at 7:00 P.M., Monday, April 19, 2021 in the Alcazar Room. The meeting was called to order Nathan Baer, Chairman. The following Steering Committee members were present:

1. **ROLL CALL**

Nathan Baer, Chairman
Carolyn Wright, Vice Chairman
Reverend Rory Hermann
Madeline Wise
Dee Thomas

Staff Present:

Jaime D. Perkins, CRA Administrator; Isabelle Lopez, City Attorney; Glabra Skipp, Environmental Program Coordinator; and Jessica Beach, Chief Resiliency Officer

2. **ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS**

a) **ELECTION OF CHAIR AND CO-CHAIR**

Rev. Rory Hermann made a motion to reappoint the current Chair and Vice-Chair. Dee Thomas seconded the motion. Nathan Baer was reappointed Chair and Carolyn Wright was reappointed Vice-Chair in a unanimous voice vote by the Steering Committee.

b) **APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES**

A motion by Rev. Rory Hermann was made to approve the minutes. The motion was not moved to second as Vice-Chair Carolyn Wright added that there was a correction. Ms. Wright stated that there was missing information regarding an agenda item related to pedestrian and mobility improvements.

Ms. Wright requested specific verbiage be added from dialogue between herself and former Finance Director, Mark Litzinger. The minutes will be approved at the next meeting.

3. **GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment.

4. **GENERAL DISCUSSION & UPDATES**

City Attorney, Isabelle Lopez stated that public comment will be heard prior to the committee's discussion and vote for each action item.

(a) **UPDATE REGARDING FIX IT UP**

Jaime D. Perkins, CRA Administrator provided an update on the Fix it Up Program, advising the total number of

projects that are ongoing and how funds are being utilized.

Bill Lazar, of St. Johns Housing Partnership gave an overview of the projects that have recently been completed and provided information regarding qualification and additional funding sources.

(b) UPDATE REGARDING INSTITUTIONAL REHAB PROGRAM

Ms. Perkins provided an update on the Institutional Rehabilitation Program. Ms. Perkins stated that she went before the Community Redevelopment Agency on March 22, 2021 to request funding be moved from the future projects line item in an effort to move the St. Paul AME and First Baptist Church projects forward. Ms. Perkins stated that the Agency unanimously approved the budget allocation request. Ms. Perkins stated that the two inaugural projects are nearing construction mobilization and that there will be groundbreaking ceremonies for both St. Paul AME and First Baptist to commemorate the projects.

Ms. Perkins presented to the committee two applications which were received during the Institutional Rehabilitation Program application cycle: applicants St. Mary's Missionary Baptist Church and the Fountain of Youth Lodge. Both applicants had members of their organization speak on their behalf urging the Steering Committee to recommend their applications be presented to the Agency for approval.

A motion was made by Rev. Rory Hermann to recommend both applications be moved to the next steps and presented to the City Commission sitting as the Community Redevelopment Agency. Dee Thomas seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously by voice vote.

Citizen inquired if there would be any other opportunities to invest into Lincolnvile's historic preservation aside from investing into the churches. Ms. Perkins answered that the churches are a vital component in the preservation of Lincolnvile's African American history she also stated that the recent application received by the Fountain of Youth Lodge is not a church. Ms. Perkins also urged residents to recommend other institutions in Lincolnvile to apply for the program.

Scott Brewer and Joe Nealon of Allstate Construction provided an overview of their roles with the company and thanked the Committee for the opportunity to work with the City. Mr. Brewer and Mr., Nealon provided insight as to historic preservation projects that they have previously been apart of.

(c) UPDATE REGARDING MLK STREESTCAPE SURVEY AND CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENTS

Ms. Perkins presented data related to the electronic survey that requested recommendations for streetscape concepts presented. Ms. Perkins stated that the survey data indicated a strong desire for Concept B with over sixty percent of the received answers selecting that option.

A citizen inquired why the survey was not presented in physical form and left at the City customer service office.

A citizen inquired about the sidewalk enhancements and the pavers that will be used, advising that the pavers shown in the concept are not representative of the community.

A citizen inquired about the undergrounding of the utilities and the project recently completed replacing utility poles.

A citizen advise that the concepts were old and outdated and not consistent with the current layout of the corridor.

Ms. Perkins advised that she has engaged with residents in multiple capacities regarding the corridor improvements. She stated that the survey was an additional community engagement effort and input opportunity. Ms. Perkins stated that she made residents aware that if they needed a physical survey she would provide one. None were requested. In addition, prior surveys that were presented in physical form were not utilized and information received was not able to be used for data collection.

Ms. Perkins responded to the citizen regarding pavers shown on the concepts, stating that the concept can be updated, and pavers can be changed. She stated that we are overall objective was to approve the technical concept not the extensive details.

Ms. Perkins advised the recent removal and replacement of the utility poles in Lincolnvile was not a capital improvement project and was in fact a part of FPL's resiliency component. The project was paid for by FPL and the City issued a right of way permit. If in fact the CRA moves forward with the undergrounding of utilities FPL has a plan in place to repurpose the poles.

Steering Committee Member, Dee Thomas inquired about permeable material being used for the corridor improvements to help to mitigate flooding.

Ms. Perkins requested that the Steering Committee make a motion to move forward with survey and planning of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Ave. Streetscape design using Concept B as the template for the project.

Steering Committee member, Madeline Wise requested clarity on the recommendation and motion being made.

Vice Chair Carolyn Wright made a Motion to move forward with the recommended design. The Motion was seconded by Chairman, Nathan Baer. The motion was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Brett Kuzoian provided an update on the corridor improvements and provided a review of the concept and design.

(d) UPDATE REGARDING TREE PLANTING INVENTORY AND MASTERPLAN

Brett Kuzoian of Kimley Horne provided an update of where we are in the tree planting masterplan project. Brett advised that data is still being compiled and that initial information obtained from the tree inventory has been sent over to City staff via the GIS system. Mr. Kuzoian explained that the data can be used for this and future projects.

(e) TREE CANOPY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

Glabra Skipp, Environmental Program Coordinator presented on the Tree Canopy program. Ms. Skipp advised that this program will allow for residents to apply to have a tree planted on their private property or adjacent right of way. Trees planted within the Lincolnvile neighborhood will be funded by the LCRA.

(f) STORM WATER AND RESILIENCE UPDATE

Jessica Beach, Chief Resiliency Officer presented on efforts made by the city to mitigate flooding. Mrs. Beach's presentation also discussed the Maria Sanchez project timeline, funding, and how the project will impact residents.

Mrs. Thomas inquired if there were any efforts being made regarding funding to lift homes that are in high-risk flood areas. Mrs. Beach indicated that she was open to looking into those mitigation efforts.

(g) CRA ANNUAL REPORT REVIEW

Ms. Perkins advised that the Annual report was completed in compliance with state legislation and that it can be found on the city website as well as the CRA website. She also stated that if anyone was interested in having a physical copy, she could provide one.

(h) STEERING COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

No Additional Discussion.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS PERTAINING TO AGENDA ITEMS

No Additional Public Comment.

6. CITY STAFF ITEMS

No items by City Staff.

7. NEXT MEETING DATE

Ms. Perkins advised that the next meeting would be held on July 19, 2021 at the Willie Galimore Center.

Ms. Perkins also made a recommendation to the board regarding changing the meeting time to align with support staff scheduling and other civic boards within the city.

City Attorney, Isabelle Lopez suggested a 5:00PM start time. A motion was made by Rev. Rory Hermann to change the meeting times to 5:00PM. Chairman, Nathan Baer seconded the motion. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 PM