

**Housing and Third Ward Revitalization Task Force
Minutes
February 5, 2024
6:30 p.m.**

The Housing and Third Ward Revitalization Task Force held virtually on Monday, February 5, 2024. The meeting commenced at 6:33 p.m. and adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Voting Members Present:

Byron Price – Chair
Linda Peoples-Jones
Patricia McQueen
Ariel Gardner
Christina Dancy
Mayela Zambrano
Christopher Flood

Voting Members Absent:

Craig Hughes
Susan Murray

Staff Present:

Brooke A. Smith, Deputy City Manager/Dir. of Economic Development

Others attending:

Representatives from Yard & Co.
Representatives from Collabo

Community Outreach Event

Chair Price stated that this meeting was to discuss the Community Outreach Event. Ed Sharrer and Kevin Wright presented the information in the PowerPoint attached to these minutes. Ed noted that the purpose was discuss the scenarios and stories that will be told at the public event and get ideas on how to host the public event.

The presentation was shared, and the task force members asked questions and provided their feedback.

Kevin Wright discussed next steps, which are to develop engagement materials and Determine dates for the consultant team to visit, noting that they were looking at Friday, March 20th – 22nd.

Patricia McQueen asked if conversations had been had with the residents that volunteer to help with canvassing and pulling in the alumni group. Deputy City Manager Smith stated that she had spoken with the City Manager and decided that it would be ok for them to spread the word and pass out QR cards, but that there are limitations on what they can do. She stated that they can do what any resident does, but cannot do what the ambassadors do. Linda Peoples-Jones asked how many community ambassadors were remaining, Smith said three. Further discussion was had on this topic. Patricia McQueen asked how the task force could organize. Smith answered that this was the purpose of having the ambassadors and noted that the task force members could also go and spread the word.

Kevin Wright resumed his discussion of the pending visit and potential dates for that visit. He asked if March 20th – 22nd will work. No one objected. Kevin said their team would get to work and be in touch with additional details.

Task Force Member Comments

Linda Peoples-Jones asked if they would be able to get t-shirts. Deputy City Manager Smith responded that she has t-shirts at her office.

Deputy City Manager noted that the agenda did have Public Comment listed on the agenda even though it should not have been, so the attendee that was listening should be allowed the opportunity to speak. Chair Price agreed.

Patrick Fox, 1309 Purdue Ave

Patrick Fox noted that he was excited to see the progress being made, but he wanted to share that his position since the first meeting has not waivered. Options for retail or commercial for these funds would be disappointing, noting that there are so many mechanisms that exist for the use of public funds, including TIF and Chapter 11s that will spur commercial development in University City. He said he was disheartened that there seemed to be more discussion about commercial opportunities. He said he does not oppose it but is not sure if it is the best use of the funds. He said he would be remiss if he didn't in his duties as a Park Commissioner mention that it would be a wise idea to continue to engage all relevant stakeholders, particularly if they are discussing the use of the parks. He said he wanted to make sure to reiterate that the funds should primarily be used to improve the housing, not just the lifestyle. He said University City has underinvested in the third ward and they should not get a pass by way of these funds to supplant their underinvestment for generations.

Adjourn

Motioned by Linda Peoples-Jones, seconded by Chris Flood to adjourn. Carried by voice vote.

Meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.