

**Housing and Third Ward Revitalization Task Force
Minutes
April 15, 2024
6:30 p.m.**

The Housing and Third Ward Revitalization Task Force held virtually Monday, April 15, 2024. The meeting commenced at 6:33 p.m. and adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Voting Members Present:

Byron Price – Chair
Linda Peoples-Jones
Patricia McQueen
Christina Dancy
Christopher Flood

Voting Members Absent:

Craig Hughes
Susan Murray
Ariel Gardner
Mayela Zambrano

Staff Present:

Brooke A. Smith, Deputy City Manager/Dir. of Economic Development
Mary Kennedy, Senior Planner

Others attending:

Representatives from Yard & Co. and Collabo.

Minutes

Motioned by Linda Peoples-Jones, seconded by Christopher Flood and carried by voice vote to approve the minutes from October 16, 2023.

Public Comments

There were none.

Discussion on Funding

Deputy City Manager Brooke Smith provided information on the source of the funds for the Housing and Third Ward Revitalization initiative. She explained that the Park & Storm funds are restricted. She also provided an update on the current balance of the fund. Discussion was had with Deputy City Manager Smith answering questions asked by the task force members.

Yard & Co. – Update

Ed Sharrer provide an update to the task force members, discussing the engagement results, the remaining project schedule, and the final engagement/activation event. Ed discussed the stakeholder meetings, the pop-up engagement events, and the open house event held on March 21st. Ed Sharrer and Patrick Brunner provided extensive details on the engagement results and answered the task force members' questions. Ed also provided an update on the survey, noting that 28 responses had been received to date. He also noted that there would be a third wave of engagement coming up later on.

Task force members asked questions and provided feedback. Discussion was had about leveraging the funds, housing, and the overall revitalization of the third ward.

Ed presented the remaining project schedule with a weekly breakdown of proposed activities. Discussion was had about how and where to hold future meetings. Ed also discussed the Final Engagement/Activation Event, noting that it would be an outdoor event and explaining the purpose. Task force members provided feedback and Ed answered questions as they were asked.

Chair Price said that Yard & Co. would make the recommendations and the task force would vote to approve. He noted that everyone will have an opportunity to either add or subtract and then that would be the final plan. Ed confirmed that Yard would have draft recommendations and a draft plan to review at the May meeting and that the task force can steer them from there. Ed said they would then bounce that off of the public.

Task Force Member Comments

Patricia McQueen said she knows there has been tension about the direction of the task force and that it is not supposed to be all housing. She said she continues to bring up housing, but that until she hears a program or something concrete, then she will continue bring up housing, noting that she is all about stabilizing the housing, enhancing the tax base, etc. She said that is the reason why the TIF was designed the way it was. She said that the task force members should go online and look at the Comprehensive Plan and the Implementation section, noting that the task force is mentioned at least 8 times. She said this plan will have to fit into the Comprehensive Plan, that it will not be a complete stand alone.

Next Meeting - May 20, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.

Adjourn

Motioned by Linda Peoples-Jones, seconded by Byron Price to adjourn. Carried by voice vote.

Meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.