

**Community Engagement Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
September 23, 2015**

The Community Engagement Subcommittee was held on September 23, 2015 in the MILRA offices at 1794 Walker Avenue SW, Atlanta, GA 30310.

ATTENDEES:

Subcommittee Members:

Councilmember Joyce Sheperd – Committee Chair
Ruben Burney, Perkerson Neighborhood
Gamba Stewart, Sylvan Hills
Shirley Gomez, Venetian Hills
Michael Hopkins, NPU-X
Ricardo Jacobs, NPU-R
Glenda Knight, MACC

ALTERNATES:

Lela Randle, Oakland City
Robbie Hunter, NPU-S

EX-OFFICIO:

MILRA Board

Staff:

Brian Hooker, MILRA
James McCormick, MILRA
Darlene Hawksley, MILRA
Pete Hayley, MILRA
Leslie Moye', Councilmember Sheperd's Office

Guests:

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Joyce Sheperd, Councilmember for District 12 and Chair of the Community Engagement Subcommittee, welcomed the members and guests to the September 23, 2015 MILRA CES meeting. Discussions started with updates on the September 17, MILRA Board Meeting.

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Approval of August 31, 2015 Minutes:

The minutes were approved with a correction on 2nd page under CES comments and suggestions – 1st line should be October not September.

Minutes were approved with Ms. Gomez abstaining.

Ruben Burney asked if the Social Media position needed was volunteer or paid position. Brian Hooker stated that it was recruiting from the fellow program at Georgia State School of Planning. Also, the Graduate fellow, hired this summer to develop the website and assist with other social media items, is no longer on staff.

MILRA Board and Property Updates:

Brian Hooker referenced the VA Medical Center Presentation that was given at the MILRA Board meeting. As appoint of reference, the Veterans Administration Chief, Leslie Williams stated they are 600,000 sq. feet short of space needed to service the needs of Veterans in this area. There was discussion of more space at Ft. McPherson if funding would allow.

Two new committees were created:

- **Finance Committee**
Responsibilities: Audits, debt, and bonds

- **Development Committee**
Responsibilities: Real Estate Activities, structuring deals in redeveloping the property.

Two new employees were added to the staff:

- Pete Haley, Program Manager
- John Schnidler – Property Asset Mgmt. – Commercial Real Estate

LCI Planning Study will conduct four major meetings which will include:

1. 10/1 Kick-Off Community Workshop – James Orange Rec. Center
2. 10/24 Fall Festival
3. 11/17 – LCI
4. 11/27 - LCI

There was discussion on CES committee participation and expected event attendance for the Fall Festival.

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Brian introduced a member from the Collaborative Firm – Dr. Ashley Torrence. Dr. Torrence provided an update on the community engagement plans for the LCI which includes posting signs in stores and reaching those who are not technically advanced. Councilmember Sheperd stated that the month of October she should go to NPU meetings and they should put Ashley on the agendas.

Oakland City MARTA TOD Updates:

Request for Proposal for the MARTA Oakland Station have been issued. CES members should let your community members know that the RFP is available. Councilmember Sheperd defined what a RFP is and advised that MARTA had conducted a study of the area and it is now a part of the McPherson redevelopment plan.

Brian Hooker will refer the concerns regarding the MARTA elevators on the Capital View side are still not working and ADA compliance issues.

ULI Final Report: Brian reviewed the McPherson ULI Tap Final Report and advised that the 50+ page document was produced from a June planning meeting. The report evaluates all the input given from the meeting and made two recommendations.

After discussion, a motion was made by Gamba and seconded by Glenda Knight to review the study prior to October 15th in a separate meeting. The CES members agreed to review the report in a separate meeting on October 6th at 5:30pm.

Public Comments

Comments were made by several guests regarding business startups, available entrepreneur programs, speeding, and blighted properties.

Meeting with adjourned at 7:20pm.