

**Community Engagement Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
January 13, 2016**

The Community Engagement Subcommittee was held on January 13, 2016 in the MILRA offices at 1794 Walker Avenue SW, Atlanta, GA 30310.

ATTENDEES:

Subcommittee Members:

Councilmember Joyce Sheperd – Committee Chair
Gamba Stewart, Sylvan Hills
Michael Hopkins, NPU-X
Ricardo Jacobs, NPU-R
Glenda Knight, MACC
Allean Brown, NPU-S
John Hathaway, Pamona Park
Ruben Burney, Perkerson Neighborhood
Tamie Cook, Colonial Hills
Monica Callier, Villages of East Point

ALTERNATES:

N/A

EX-OFFICIO:

N/A

MILRA Board

Staff:

Brian Hooker, MILRA
Peter Andrews, MILRA
Sandra Tennyson, MILRA
Arthur Mallard, MILRA
Jocelyn Bivins, Councilmember Sheperd's Office
Pete Hayley, MILRA
Jeffrey Hicks, MILRA

Other:

Nancy Flake Johnson, Urban League of Greater Atlanta
Michael Hightower, TCF
Jimmy Jones, Commissioner Arrington 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 January 13, 2016 MILRA CES meeting. Until a quorum was present, discussions began with updates.

Approval of September 23, 2015 and October 28, 2015 Minutes:

The September 23, 2015 minutes were approved with a unanimous vote after motion by Allean Brown and second by Michael Hopkins. The October 28, 2015 minutes were approved with corrections of recognizing Tamie Cook on the Fall Festival Planning Committee and referencing the robust discussion regarding TPS not providing a line of communications to the CES group regarding his plans. The motion was made by Ruben Burney and the second by John Hathawy and Ricardo Jacobs.

Updates and Information:

- **MILRA Board** updates were provided by Executive Director Brian Hooker. Mr. Hooker began by recapping the role of MILRA, property acquisition and ownership after the sale to Tyler Perry Studios. Brian also highlighted significant accomplishments and authorized changes approved in December Board meeting:
 - A. *Planning Projects:* ULI study funded by Georgia Power grant and Oakland/McPherson LCI study funded by ARC grant, Invest Atlanta and Councilmembers Sheperd and Winslow.
 - B. *Management of the property:* Atlanta based security and maintenance contractors hired
 - C. *Fall Festival:* Property owned by MILRA was open to public for viewing and visioning for future usage
 - D. *Board Re-organization:* Board meetings will move to a bi-monthly schedule and new committees established to allow separate meeting times and attention: Finance Committee meeting January 21st at 1P and the Development Committee January 21st at 2P.
 - E. *New Staff Members and Work Force Development Partner:* Pete Hayley-Program Management, Arthur Mallard-Real Estate, Jeffrey Hicks-Asset Management and Nancy Flake Johnson-Urban League
- **Oakland/McPherson LCI** updates were provided by Dr. Torrence. She stated that over 400 responses were received for the LCI study at the Fall Festival. Members were encouraged to attend the final public meeting on January 28th at

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Atlanta Technical College since the Board will vote to accept the plan in the February 18th meeting. The CES members will discuss the final draft in the February 10th CES meeting.

Unfinished Business

- CM Sheperd and Brian Hooker briefly recapped **New Market Tax Credits (NMTC) Financing for the Tyler Perry Studios**. NMTC financing is a tax credit driven financial product offered by the Federal government as an incentive to get investors to invest in communities and new markets. These investments are expected to result in the creation of jobs and material improvement in the lives of the residents surrounding Fort McPherson. TPS requested financing for the site work and upgrade required to prepare his property for the vertical build-out.

- Brian Hooker applauded CES members in remaining firm in its position that TPS provide representation in the CES meeting since his business is now a “neighbor”. This position resulted in TPS plans to hire a community engagement coordinator. Brian further re-iterated that grading and demolition work is currently in progress; however, no plans for TPS property development will be shared until the permits are filed. Only land disturbance work is being done at this time.

New Business: None Identified

Announcement: CES Meeting February 10, 2016

Public Comments

Four people signed up and made comments regarding the project. A recurring concern about the work that TPS is doing was asked since permits were not available via online searches. CM Sheperd committed to investigate to determine if renovation work in the USARC building requires site plans.

Meeting with adjourned at 8:10pm.