

**Community Engagement Subcommittee Meeting Minutes  
March 23, 2016**

The Community Engagement Subcommittee was held on March 23, 2016 in the Fort MAC LRA 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  
Lydia O’Neal, Oakland City  
Ruben Burney, Perkerson Neighborhood  
Shirley Gomez, WECO/Venetian Hills  
Wil Miller, Ward B-East Point  
James Harris, Capitol View  
Rosalyn Baughn, CANO

ALTERNATES:

Vicki Mack, Oakland City  
Etha Hall, CANO  
Corliss Claire, NPU R  
Robbie Hunter, NPU S

EX-OFFICIO:

Nan Orrock, Senator

FORT MAC LRA Board:

Marvin Arrington, Jr., Fulton County Board of Commissioners

Staff:

Brian Hooker, Fort MAC LRA  
Sandra Tennyson, Fort MAC LRA  
Arthur Mallard, Fort MAC LRA  
Jocelyn Bivins, Councilmember Sheperd’s Office  
Pete Hayley, Fort MAC LRA

Other:

Khalilah Birdsong, Tyler Perry Studio

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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 March 23, 2016 MILRA CES meeting. A quorum of 10 members was present and the agenda was approved with the addition of a presentation by Westside Atlanta Land Trust. Two were guest recognized, Ms. Khalilah Birdsong with TPS and Mr. Tracey Mosley representing Nancy Flake Johnson the Director of Urban League Atlanta.

**Approval of February 17, 2016 Minutes:**

The minutes were approved with the addition of the *need for a pedestrian bridge across Lee Street*. Motion by Ruben Burney and second by Glenda Knight was carried with a unanimous vote.

**Updates and Information:**

- **Fort MAC LRA Board** Brian Hooker began by stating that the Oakland/McPherson LCI plan was presented to the Board with the input and consensus of support from the Community Engagement Subcommittee. The next step is adoption of the plan by Atlanta City Council. Brian Hooker continued with a report on the Finance Committee and the Development Committee which meet separately from the bi-monthly Board meeting. Mr. Hooker stated that during the *Finance Committee* review of the amended budget for fiscal year 2016, a need for a procurement policy was identified. A procurement policy will establish guidelines for the respondents, instructions for submitting and assist the staff with a selection process. Brian further added that the government grant from last year may be extended by an additional year. OEA does not provide support for maintenance of the property. The *Development Committee* has engaged a firm to start marketing the property. A consultant was hired to assist with the environmental issues (asbestos removal and other concerns) and activation of properties for rental or purchase via the website.
  
- Dale Royal with Invest Atlanta discussed the New Market Tax Credits and the opportunity for employment. Dale summarized NMTC as a financial tool to provide tax relief in exchange for a commitment to work with the community for local job hiring. Dale further expressed that they are working with partners to ensure that the community will know what jobs are available and the requirements and regular reports on who was hired and from what areas. In the

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first meeting with partners (Georgia Film Academy, AWDA and Atlanta Urban League), a process will be developed to ensure that the community has access to and receives this information. Several CES members expressed a strong desire for active engagement in the process to hire local from the community (including seniors) and need to understand the requirements. Mr. Royal introduced the Tyler Perry Studios representative who will engage in future meetings, Ms. Khalilah Birdsong. Chair Joyce Sheperd and Mr. Marvin Arrington, Jr. with Fulton County suggested that a committee be formed to establish a process/agreement for written reports, impact monitoring, and terms. *The committee will consist of James Harris, Marvin Arrington and Joyce Sheperd, Chair of CES.*

### **Unfinished Business**

- **Election of Vice Chair:** The floor was opened for nominations for Vice Chair. Ricardo Jacobs nominated Gamba Stewart with the group's unanimous seconded and vote of approval. After a discussion surrounding CES appointments and the need for a quorum in meetings, a bylaws committee was suggested. The participants are Robbie Hunter, Ricardo Jacobs, Marvin Arrington, Lydia O'Neal, and Glenda Knight. The group will make recommendations on attendance requirements and include regular membership/participation by Marvin Arrington and Khalilah Birdsong with TPS.
- **2016 Meeting Schedule:** The CES group has several items which will require meetings more regular than bi-monthly. Gamba Stewart made a motion for the group to meet monthly for the next six months on every 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday until further notice. Robbie Hunter seconded with unanimous vote of approval.
- **Senator Nan Orrock** reported on the status of HB1129 which clarifies McPherson leases for redevelopment can be up to 99 years, and allows an "inactive" status for members on the board. The legislation passed both houses. The legislation will provide more flexibility for public-private partnerships and serve as a tool to attract capitol by allowing the structure for long term leases.

### **New Business: Westside Atlanta Land Trust Presentation**

- Pamela Flores shared the power point presentation for WALT which enables permanent housing and a Land Trust Collaborative.

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**Announcements:**

MILRA Meetings:

- Finance Committee April 21<sup>st</sup> at 1P
- Development Committee April 14<sup>th</sup> at 1P
- MILRA Board April 21<sup>st</sup> at 2P.

As information, the Board will meet the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday bi-monthly for the remainder of the year: June, August, October and December.

**Public Comments**

Six (6) people signed up and made comments regarding the project. Some comments were made:

- A presentation on McTropolis
- Need for a community center
- Want more information about Invest Atlanta and Ms. Birdsong on the website
- Want more information about what's going on and the plans...keep the website current

Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.