

**Community Engagement Subcommittee Meeting Minutes  
April 21, 2021**

The Community Engagement Subcommittee was held on Wednesday, April 21, 2021, via Zoom video conference.

**ATTENDEES**

Subcommittee Members:

Councilmember Joyce Sheperd – Committee Chair  
Ricardo Jacobs, NPU-R  
Roslyn Baughn, CANO  
Glenda Knight, MACC  
Allean Brown, NPU-S  
Ruben Burney, Perkerson Neighborhood  
Quadrus Black, Venetian Hills  
Michael Frierson, Villages of East Point  
James Harris, Capitol View  
Judy Walker, Oakland City

Alternates:

Kyle Lamont, Oakland City  
Peter Soder, CANO

Ex-Officio: N/A

Fort MAC LRA Board: Young Hughley, West View & PAAC Chair

Staff: David Burt, LRA

Jocelyn Bivins, Councilmember Sheperd Office  
CeCe Ross, LRA  
Sandra Tennyson, LRA  
Robert Mosby, LRA  
Tracey Upshaw, LRA  
Joyce Allen, LRA  
Pete Hayley, LRA

**TPS:** Jessica Hardaway, Director Communications & Engagement

**ULGATL:** N/A

**Fulton County Office of Marvin Arrington:** N/A

**A2D, Inc.:** N/A

**Office of Park Cannon Georgia House D58:** N/A

**Guests** Terra Williams, + others

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Councilmember Joyce Sheperd welcomed the members, partners and guests to the CES Meeting via Zoom on April 21, 2021. With a quorum present, the agenda was approved unanimously with a motion by K. Lamont and a second by R. Jacobs.

**Approval of Minutes: March 24, 2021** The March 24, 2021 meeting minutes were unanimously approved with corrections via a motion by K. Lamont and second by Allean Brown. Approved and updated minutes will be posted on the Fort MAC LRA website, [www.FortMacLRA.com](http://www.FortMacLRA.com).

### **Presentations**

N/A

### **Fort MAC LRA Board Updates**

David Burt, LRA Executive Director, provided an update on the financials and the property:

1. The Board approved the 2021-2022 budget. Also, David emphasized that the current year has been under budget with favorable financial variances.
2. The LRA is reviewing and discussing the TDJ REV proposal to determine whether there is enough framework to move forward towards an agreement. If the project moves forward, more information could be presented to the community in the May meeting.
3. Councilmember Sheperd shared the letter addressed to her from T.D. Jakes Real Estates Ventures, LLC. Councilmember Sheperd stated that minutes and other information have been shared with them to ensure that TDJ REV is aware of what the community wants and expects.

Several CES members (Michael, Glenda, Judy, James, and others) expressed concerns and asked questions about the LRA property. Questions from the conversation are below:

**1. Who is EDT (Engineering and Design Technologies) and are they a development partner?**

*David replied that EDT is a partner who has a lot of experience and dealings with infrastructure and the LRA property has very old infrastructure. Also, Councilmember Sheperd stated that EDT is not affiliated with Egbert Perry's organization.*

**2. There have been conversations or rumors of a mega church being considered.**

*David stated that the LCI will govern the development for housing, retail, greenspace and so forth. It's reasonable for people to assume that a mega church is planned. However, this real estate development is different. It's mission driven to*

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*provide housing. The LCI does not include churches and there has been no discussion of a mega church.*

**3. What is the number of acres they want to purchase?**

*David replied that they are not far enough in their conversations/process, not sure at this point.*

James Harris created and provided an online form for CES members to submit their concerns and question. James will consolidate the responses for the next meeting. Jocelyn will send the online form to all CES members.

The group discussed the need to review the LCI since it will be used as a guide. Suggestions were made for the LRA to make an effort to get residents engaged in the project, perhaps with a Saturday session. Councilmember Sheperd advised that they would consider the suggestions but stated that the initial step should be to have the CES review the LCI study. Councilmember Sheperd recommended that the Sizemore Group present the LCI in the next CES meeting. After continued discussion, Ruben Burney made a motion to allow the LCI presentation. Michael Hopkins seconded the motion. The vote was all yeas to have a meeting with no opposition or abstention votes.

David Burt and Councilmember Sheperd will contact Sizemore Group to do a presentation of the LCI in a separate meeting in about 2 weeks. James reminded the group that the questions/concerns should be returned at least two days prior to the meeting. Councilmember Sheperd advised that a date will be provided later.

David summarized by stating that TDJ REV will present to NPUs and neighborhoods. They are hiring a firm to develop an engagement plan for the community at large. Young Hughley polled the group to see if members are sharing information with their communities, they responded in the affirmative. Councilmember Sheperd suggested that the approved minutes will be emailed to CES members after the regular meeting and corrections are made.

Additional suggestions, concerns, statements:

- a) Consider outdoor venues to make it easier for community to get engaged
- b) Send approved CES minutes to CES members after the meeting
- c) Consider an artist/vendor market including food trucks with the community session

Councilmember Sheperd encouraged an initial conversation with a smaller focused group versus a session with draws too many people who might only attend to interact with or see TDJ.

- d) David stated the first meeting will be an introduction and listening session. Presentation to start with TDJ REV history And who they are.
- e) Provide examples of other developments for the community to review.

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- f) Councilmember Sheperd confirmed that Fort MAC is not a part of any neighborhood association as shown on the map of NPUs from Planning.

**Committee Reports**

- **Public Arts Advisory Council (PAAC):** Young Hughley stated that there has been no formal meeting and they are still seeking members who can provide strategic partnerships and funds for activities. Mr. Hughley reported that members of PAAC have been walking the property to look at buildings to determine the types of events and art they could host given the current situation with COVID 19. They hope to resume meetings soon.
- **Tyler Perry Studios:** Jessica Hardaway provided the following report:
  1. TPS has partnered with Clark Atlanta University on a virtual event for students on March 30<sup>th</sup> in celebration for Women History Month. This panel event featured women leaders from TPS operations side of the business. The event was moderated by Miss Clark Atlanta University.
  2. TPS has created a coding boot camp program for students at Finch Elementary School. It is a five-week virtual instructor-led course. The students who are participating in the program are in the 4th grade. Throughout the course students will have the opportunity to learn basic computer programming skills by creating their own mobile app. Students will also have the chance to engage with professionals from the tech industry through a speaker's day event. The program will begin on April 14th.
- **Jobs Creation Taskforce:** No report provided. James Harris stated that a lot of filming is occurring in Capitol View and residents have become interested in making money from their houses. It would be interesting to see how much production money is being spent in Southwest Atlanta. Councilmember Sheperd reminded the group that these are other production companies scouting and filming in the communities. Therefore, TPS does not the dollars spent. However, there is money to be made by making your home available via the site locators. *Suggestion to get Georgia State to present information and website for how to list your home and provide reports of dollars spent in a meeting later this year.*
- **Homeless Housing Committee:** Joyce Sheperd stated that the committee is still waiting for a meeting with HUD or a response regarding the unit obligations.

**Unfinished Business**

**1. What happened with A2D and test pilot?**

*David stated that they are planning a meeting within the next two weeks and an update will be provided. Pete Hayley stated that A2D is working to expand from the main area. Also, A2D is seeking a new vendor to develop a marketing plan.*

**New Business**

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N/A

**Public and Additional CES Comments, Suggestions**

1. Group polled for suggestion to change the meeting start time from 5:30P to 6:00P. The poll indicated that the majority preferred the 5:30P start time.
2. Kyle suggested that the Public Comments for LRA meetings be near the beginning versus the end. After discussion, David will discuss 2 public comment sections with Chairman Butts. The first PC for agenda items and the second PC for anything else near the end.

**Announcements:**

**Councilmember Sheperd** announced that MARTA is proposing an **LRT (Light Rapid Train) or BRT (Bus Rapid Train)** for the Campbellton Road corridor. Community meetings are planned. David has met with MARTA to discuss what's happening at Fort MAC and how MARTA's BRT/LRT will touch Fort MAC. MARTA will share with CES in a future meeting.

**Meeting Adjourned** at approximately 6:41p.m.

*Minutes Recorded by: Jocelyn Bivins, Councilmember Sheperd's Staff*