

**Community Engagement Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
August 26, 2020**

The Community Engagement Subcommittee was held on Wednesday, August 26, 2020, via Zoom video conference.

ATTENDEES

Subcommittee Members:

Councilmember Joyce Sheperd – Committee Chair
James Harris, CVNA
Ricardo Jacobs, NPU-R
Charles Greene, SHNA
Michael Hopkins, NPU-X
Ruben Burney, Perkerson
Judy Walker, OCCO

Alternates: Kyle Lamont, OCCO
Allean Brown, NPU-S
Sagirah Jones, CVNA

Ex-Officio: Park Cannon, GA House District 58

Fort MAC LRA Board: N/A

Staff: David Burt, LRA
Jocelyn Bivins, Councilmember Sheperd Office
CeCe Ross, LRA
Sandra Tennyson, LRA
Robert Mosby, LRA
Joyce Allen, LRA
Pete Hayley, LRA

TPS: Jessica Hardaway, Director Communications & Engagement
ULGATL: Angela Marshall (amarshall@ulgatl.com) , Nancy Johnson
Fulton County Office of Marvin Arrington: Mitsah Henry

Guests: 2 (Rodney Jones and Steve Williams)

Councilmember Joyce Sheperd welcomed the members, partners and guests to the CES Meeting via Zoom on August 26, 2020. With a quorum present, the agenda was approved: Hopkins-motion and Harris/Walker -seconded.

Approval of Minutes:

May 27, 2020 meeting minutes unanimously approved with correction of Pete Hayley in attendance: Harris -motion and Burney-seconded. Approved minutes will be posted on the Fort MAC LRA website, www.FortMacLRA.com .

**Community Engagement Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
August 26, 2020**

Presentation

N/A

Fort MAC LRA Board Updates

- ***Parking Agreements:*** David Burt, Interim Executive Director, provided the following updates:
 - The Board agreed to extend the *VA parking* lease for +/- 1 year. VA still building parking deck and additional spaces are still needed. Lease adds \$11,690 monthly for 334 spaces near the former commissary location,
 - Easterly may need to rent spaces in future based on the current interior demolishing and construction around the FORSCOM building. Demo/construction expected to take 1.5 years to complete.
- ***Electric Power:*** The LRA building and two credit unions are on the same substation. Recent power failure caused LRA to examine options and investigate cost saving measures such as moving the credit unions off the substation to separate meters. Georgia Power recommended the LRA cut and trim trees. Also, consider possible move of LRA operations closer to Lee Street where the power feed enters the property. Lighting for rear of LRA building under consideration in light of final recommendations for options to improve performance.

Committee Reports

- ***Public Arts Advisory Council (PAAC):*** David reported that PAAC has not formally met due to the pandemic. The committee is considering ways to revitalize the ARTS Committee and ideas will be shared as more details are developed. David also announced that ArtLanta will move from the property. Allean asked if the chapel will be restored to a “chapel” by installing the pews and so forth. The chapel with pews had some lease value for movies etc. Response, ArtLanta will vacate the chapel and return it to the LRA as is. The LRA has not made a decision concerning types of programs. However, the LRA would like to use the Fire House and Chapel for events more than art,

David shared an idea underdevelopment to present “drive-in” experience on the LRA property for approx. 50 cars due to pandemic concerns. Local food trucks can be utilized with contactless options for food delivery. A decision regarding cost has not been made but the LRA would like to provide at a minimal fee or no charge for community.

CES members were asked for their initial thoughts:

- A. Allean, consider a different location so that more cars can participate

**Community Engagement Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
August 26, 2020**

- B. Ruben, should bring renewed interest, pretty good idea, explore daytime activities, come as you are in your family car,
- C. Mike, vet with the NPUs and associations to see if they would attend.
- D. Joyce, consider noise and sound for movies/activities that do not interfere with TPS productions . Send suggestions for biography movies.
- E. Judy, suggested the movie/drive in should be at no cost.
- F. *Other suggestions:* Consider movies such as history of Ft. MAC, John Lewis with a post Q&A session, consider a two night option with one night family focused and the other night for showing a documentary.

David will create a community survey to solicit interest and suggestions for activities the communities would like for art, programs and entertainment. A draft will be sent to *CES members only* to review and offer suggestions. Suggestions can be emailed to dburt@fortmaclra.com.

- **Tyler Perry Studios:** Jessica Hardaway reported that The Perry Foundation partnered with CORE to provide free and accessible COVID-19 testing to the local community. A mobile testing van moved throughout Southwest Atlanta to 10 different locations. In total there were over 5,000 tests provided to the community in a month. The Perry Foundation thanked the CES members for their assistance during this testing initiative.

Additional information, comments, and concerns :

1. **James Harris** added that he **applauds** The Tyler Perry Studios for finding local entrepreneurs for possible vendors during the “production quarantine” process.
2. **Michael** asked if **additional employment opportunities** will be available with the CORE testing initiative. Response, Jessica will verify and if opportunities are available, she will email to Office of Councilmember Sheperd.
3. **Judy** advised that the Seventh Day Adventist Church was pleased to partner with CORE and The Perry Foundation. Judy also **voiced concerns about providing parents with childcare support and training while** helping their children with online education and maintaining employment. Need resources for youth outdoor activities and/or access to parks and recreation since there are no YMCA or Boys and Girls Club in area.
4. **Park Cannon** responded that **the State Department of Education provided training via the SLDS parents’ portal**. In addition to training, the portal provides social data on grades and attendance for parents and educators. She will request additional training session and will share with CES when information and schedules are available.

**Community Engagement Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
August 26, 2020**

5. **Nancy with ULGATL** shared that they are **concerned about the youth learning virtually and options available for childcare** when parents need to work. **An At Promise Center is available on the Westside** with resources for childcare. Operation hours 7:30am until 5pm for middle and high school students only. Program currently serving 30-40 youth with food provided. The Boys and Girls Club accepts elementary aged youth. In collaboration with APS, the cost is \$50 for registration and everything is free. Also, backpacks with school supplies and food for families are available. Contact Ebony White at ULGATL. Also, 24 non-profits in Atlanta received **funds from the CARE** program to assist with housing insecurity through United Way. The ULGATL received funds to provide assistance with housing, rent, security deposits, and utility bills. Eligible households can received up to \$3000 in assistance. The intake process is managed by contacting the United Way211 service.
 6. **Michael** asked about **intake process**. Response, United way 211 provides a link back to requestor via email or cell phone. The requestor submits the information back to 211 which then assess the need and refers to an agency. The assigned agency based on the need request will respond to requestor within 72 hours.
 7. **Joyce Sheperd** advised that an At Promise Center will open soon in her district and the City of Atlanta's website has the link to United Way 211 for services. She also expressed appreciation to the Urban League for assisting with a constituent with COVID in paying two month's rent, and housing. Joyce offered her assistance to ULGATL when a COA employee 's employment is in jeopardy due to the impact of COVID and related issues with childcare and housing.
 8. **Sagirah** announced the Campus Connection Program at YMCA is available for youth up to 13yrs, CAP and AHA childcare vouchers are accepted, and financing is available , operations hours M-F, with 7am drop up time. Other sites available on YMCA.org website and look for Campus Connection link.
- **Jobs Creation Task Force:** Nancy stated that the ULGATL is still interested in hosting in the spring via virtual platform a Film And TV Symposium in partnership with Georgia Film Academy. More discussion is needed, keeping in mind the social and pandemic impacts.

Unfinished Business

In response to concerns, Pete Hayley reported on the following:

- A. **Fiber optic** project a little behind schedule due to impact of the pandemic. Pete is working with the team to get them ready to go live by end of September and solicit customers.

**Community Engagement Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
August 26, 2020**

- B. **Damaged Sign** not repaired. Decision to replace with an “art” installation or something else is pending.

New Business

N/A

Public Comments:

- *Steve Williams and Rodney Jones were acknowledged and permitted to comment accordingly. Steve likes the movie idea and expressed appreciation for the CORE testing that went very well. A document of test evidence was provided within 2 days.*

Announcements and Adjournment:

On behalf of Councilmember Sheperd and the CES team, a flower was sent and a proclamation was prepared for Dianese Howard. NPU-S established a “GoFundMe” site for those wishing to contribute to Dianese Howard’s memory. Information was emailed to CES members with details for the memorial service and live streaming option.

Meeting Adjourned after Michael’s motion and Allean’s second at approximately 6:55p.m.

Minutes Recorded by: Jocelyn Bivins, Councilmember Sheperd’s Staff