

# McPherson Implementing Local Redevelopment Authority Community Engagement Sub-Committee Meeting Minutes April 27, 2022

A meeting of the Community Engagement Sub-committee of the McPherson Implementing Local Redevelopment Authority (Fort Mac LRA) was held on Wednesday, April 27, 2022 at the office of Fort Mac LRA.

## **Committee Members:**

Thomas Calloway - Chairman
Ricardo Jacobs, Vice-Chairman
Floyd Porter, NPU-X
Allean Brown, NPU-S
Tamie Cook, Colonial Hills
Michael Frierson, Villages of East Point
Reuben Burney, Perkerson Neighborhood
Sagirah Jones – Alternate, Capitol View
Allison Hathaway-Alternate, Pamona Park
Kate Little-Alternate, NPU-S

### **Ex-Officios:**

N/A

## Fort Mac LRA Board:

Young Hughley, West View & PAAC Chair

## Fort Mac LRA Staff:

David Burt, Executive Director, Fort Mac LRA Pete Hayley, Fort Mac LRA Robert Mosby, Fort Mac LRA Joyce Allen, Fort Mac LRA Tracey Upshaw, Fort Mac LRA Sandra Tennyson, Fort Mac LRA

### Partners:

TPS: Jessica Hardaway, Director Communications & Engagement TDJ Foundation: Michael Phillips, Chief Engagement and Fulfillment Officer

### **Guests:**

Steve Williams Brian Sumlin Ashley Barker Mina Turabi

# Call to Order and Welcome:

Chair Thomas Calloway called the meeting to order at approximately 5:40 P.M., introduced himself as the new Chairman of the Community Engagement Sub-Committee and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

# **Roll Call/Determination of Quorum:**

The Chair requested a roll call, and a quorum was pronounced.

# Approval of Agenda:

Chairman Calloway called for approval of the Agenda. A motion to approve was properly made and seconded. Approval was unanimous.

# **Approval of the Minutes:**

Chairman Calloway called for approval of the November 29, 2021 Special Called Meeting Minutes. The Minutes were unanimously approved with grammatical corrections via a motion by Committee member Reuben Burney to page 2, 5<sup>th</sup> paragraph to read "He committed to get back with the group with more information in the near future". Approved and updated minutes will be emailed to CES members and posted on the Fort Mac LRA website, www.fortmaclra.com.

# **Committee Member Announcements:**

Chairman Calloway gave each meeting attendee the opportunity to introduce themselves and make an announcement regarding their community/neighborhood organizations. Afterwards, Mr. Calloway gave an overview of his background and stated that as Chairman, he will engage with CES members and be attentive to ensure that consideration is given to their goals.

#### **Public Comment:**

The public was allowed to make comments throughout the meeting. There were two additional questions and concerns.

- 1) -SW-Former CES committee member who desires to offer water conservation services from his business to developers asked when questions from James Harris will be presented to committee and stated public comments at the beginning of meeting may mean questions after presentations will be missed.
- 2) -BS-Uses VA facility; excited re Fort Mac's next stage and admonished that they stay on task with consideration for the community.

#### Fort Mac RA Board Updates:

David Burt, Executive Director, Fort Mac LRA, reported that the FMLRA Board is once again at full membership with the appointment/reappointment of 13 Board members after a short period with less than 11 members, which constitutes a legal board. He explained that Board members serve for 4 years and until the additions and reappointments, the Board could not legally meet. He also reported that TDJ REV and TPS are in their due diligence stage thus, this was the best time for the new Board to be appointed. The appointments included 2 by the mayor of East Point/2 from Fulton County/1 by the governor and 7

appointed by the mayor of Atlanta. Mr. Burt then entertained questions from CES members.

### Presentation- TD Jakes Foundation:

Mr. Michael Phillips, Chief Engagement and Fulfillment Officer, TDJ Foundation introduced himself and stated the vision of the Foundation which is to transform lives by uplifting communities with three pillars of influence: community building, workforce readiness and corporate partnerships. He confirmed that the Foundation has the ability to bring these forces into reality and will make a commitment to this community to do so in the long-term. Mr. Phillips stated that working in conjunction with TDJ REV, the Foundation will tap the CES Committee's input, insight and expertise to provide wraparound support and are open to new and fresh ideas. Mr. Phillips entertained questions from the committee members. Sigirah Jones, Sub-committee member, asked for specifics concerning the commitment to the community in terms of a timeline and monetary amount. Mr. Phillips did not give a definitive comment on either.

# **Presentation – Proposed Community Art Events:**

PAAC Chairman Young Hughley and FMLRA Project Coordinator Tracey Upshaw presented ideas on activities for the upcoming summer and fall to take place on the Fort Mac property for the benefit of the community. These may include an Art Fair similar to the Dogwood and Black Arts Festivals which take place in Atlanta, with participation by the African American Philharmonic Orchestra, Ballethnic Dance Company, and more. These events and performances may be held outdoors in the historical district. Community service events will center around seminars on homeownership, financial planning, obtaining mortgages and hiring/job fairs. The latter may be indoor activities and could possibly be held with shared ideas and support from the T D Jakes Foundation as well as city organizations. The CES was reminded that these events are in the planning stage with resources still to be obtained. Activities may start as early as May or June of this year.

## **Presentation – Proposed Community Service Events:**

Community service events were included in presentation above.

#### **Update from Tyler Perry Studios:**

Ms. Jessica Hardaway, Director Communications and Engagement, TPS, presented the following report:

- TPS partnered with Meals on Wheels Atlanta for a holiday season telephone reassurance program. Volunteers participated in a bi-weekly check-in call with seniors from the community. The program ran from November to end of January.
- The Foundation partnered with the Empty Stocking Fund to provide Christmas gifts to metro Atlanta families in need during the holiday season. A group of employees from TPS volunteered at the Empty Stocking Fund's warehouse to package gifts.
- TPS donated and delivered over 200 pieces of lighting equipment to both Tri-Cities High School's Performing Arts program and Clark Atlanta University's Mass Media Arts department.
- TPS partnered with Morehouse College on a Black History Month speaker event. A member of the executive leadership team spoke with students from their Cinema, Television & Emerging Media Studies program.

- In celebration for Black History Month, the Foundation sponsored a field trip to the High Museum of Art for Finch Elementary 5<sup>th</sup> grade class to see The Obama Portraits Tour.
- In celebration for Women History Month, TPS partnered with Clark Atlanta University on a virtual panel event. Women from the leadership team spoke with students and alumni from their Mass Media Arts department.
- TPS hosted a Diaper Drive and donated over 2,000 diapers, pullups, and baby formula to the Tender Foundation. These donated items will be provided to single mothers who are need of assistance for their families.
- Currently, TPS has a job opening for a Grounds Laborer position. Further details will be emailed out to the CES committee.

### Chairman's Announcements:

Chairman Calloway received comments from each Committee member and announced that the By-Laws will be amended to add a second Public Comments at the next CES Sub-Committee meeting.

#### Adjournment:

The Chair requested a motion to adjourn. A motion was properly made and seconded. Approval was unanimous.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:24 P.M.

# Recorded By:

Joyce Allen,

Senior Administrative Assistant

Approved By:

David Burt,

Executive Director