



McPherson Implementing Local Redevelopment Authority
Community Engagement Sub-committee Meeting Minutes
February 22, 2023

A meeting of the Community Engagement Sub-committee of the McPherson Implementing Local Redevelopment Authority (Fort Mac LRA) was held on Wednesday, February 22, 2023, at Fort Mac LRA, 1794 Walker Avenue, Atlanta, GA 30310.

Committee Members:

Thomas Calloway, Chairman
Ricardo Jacobs, NPU-R, Vice Chairman
James Harris, Capitol View (X)
Sagirah Jones, Alternate, NPU- X
Jared Evans, Alternate, Cascade Avenue
Kate Little, Alternate, NPU-S
Ruben Burney, Perkerson Neighborhood (X)
Tamie Cook, Colonial Hills
Ashley Barker, Alternate, Sylvan Hills (X)
Allean Brown, NPU-S

Fort Mac LRA Board:

Marvin Arrington, FMLRA Board of Directors
Young Hughley, FMLRA Board of Directors
Antonio Lewis, Ex-officio, FMLRA Board of Directors

Fort Mac LRA Staff and Legal

Joyce Allen, Fort Mac LRA
Tracey Upshaw, Fort Mac LRA
Pete Hayley, Fort Mac LRA
Melissa Lopez-Rogers, Attorney Greenberg Traurig

Partners:

N/A

Guests:

Natalie Hall, Fulton County Commissioner
Kenneth Nellum
Starr Bruner
Steve Williams
Presley Childre
Sheldon Mabry

Kaylah Simmons
M. Alise Adams
T.J. Williams

Call to Order and Welcome:

Chairman Calloway called the meeting to order at approximately 5:50P.M. and welcomed members and guests to the meeting. He announced that he would leave the meeting at 6:45pm and appointed Vice Chairman Jacobs to precede him at that time.

Roll Call/Determination of Quorum:

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

Approval of Agenda:

The Chair amended the agenda as follows: (1) added presentation by Marvin Arrington to Public Comment #1, (2) moved presentation by Joyce Sheperd to follow Public Comments #1; and (3) added “Drafting Request to TPS” to follow these changes. A motion to approve the February 22, 2023 agenda with requested amendments by Chair was made and seconded. Approval was unanimous.

Approval of the Minutes:

The Chair requested a motion to approve the January 25, 2023 minutes. Mr. James Harris submitted a written statement concerning discussions at the meeting to be added under “Update-FMLRA Community Benefits Committee”. A motion was properly made to approve the minutes with the stated addition and seconded. Approval was unanimous.

Committee Member Announcements:

Tamie Cook- Saturday, the Partnership for Southern Equity and Morehouse School of Medicine, will be hosting a “Why Health Equity Matters” workshop at the ArtsXchange from 10:00am – 2:00pm. Lunch will be served. Please contact Ms. Cook for more information.

Allean Brown– announced the passing of David Burt’s mother and presented a sympathy card to staff to be given to Mr. Burt and family from the Sub-committee.

Public Comment #1:

-Commissioner Marvin Arrington- Thanked the CES members for their service on the Sub-committee and their work throughout the years. He stated that he believes there will be monies to benefit the community in a helpful way. He encouraged the CES to submit their wants in “buckets” to be presented to the Benefits Committee while abiding by the BRAC specifications. He suggested they rally around the good work that has already been done by the CES for the community. The Chair then entertained questions and comments from the Sub-committee.

-Steve Williams -Signed a contract to perform a water audit for TPS. Infrastructure for sewage will be taken care of during development.

Presentation – Joyce Sheperd:

The Chair recognized former Councilwoman Joyce Sheperd who announced that she has taken a position on the Board of Directors at the ArtsXchange. She stated that the

Artsxchange has been around for many years in various locations in the area and is now located in the Colonial Hills area of East Point. She invited everyone to tour the facility and to participate in upcoming activities and events. She is also on the Board of Life Cycle Building Center, a 12 year old non-profit home improvement store located at 1116 Murphy Avenue in Atlanta. Ms. Sheperd introduced Shannon Goodman, Executive Director of Life Cycle Building Center of Greater Atlanta who reported that her organization sells recycled building materials at far lower cost than new. In addition, the business has a non-profit program which provides free building materials to non-profit schools. Over the last 12 years, they have given to 250 organizations which equates in savings to over 5 million dollars in free and discounted materials to the community. Beginning March 20, 2023, Life Cycle will launch a jobs training program in deconstruction with slots for twenty applicants. Each student will participate in a four-week paid training program with access to more than a dozen employer partners, participation in an apprenticeship program, a twelve-hundred dollar stipend, and transportation as well as a full set of tools and PPE. Ms. Goodman asked that the CES help spread the word to the community concerning the Life Cycle Building Center and its' programs.

Drafting Request to TPS:

In the absence of Chairman Calloway, Vice Chairman Ricardo Jacobs presided over the remainder of the meeting.

The Vice Chair recognized Ms. Tamie Cook, member of the CES, who reported on a request from the Sub-committee to have a representative from Tyler Perry Studios, familiar with the redevelopment of their property, attend each monthly CES meeting. Ms. Cook read from a written draft of the request and entertained suggestions for changes from CES members. Legal gave a perspective indicating that the Board would have to ratify or give their approval and act according to the By-laws concerning this request. Following an in-depth discussion, which clarified that the requested TPS representative would not become a member of the CES, Ms. Cook made appropriate changes to the draft and all agreed that the document would be presented to the FMLRA Board at their next meeting for approval. A motion as made to provide the Chair of the Community Engagement Sub-committee with the Tyler Perry Studios request letter, to be given to the MILRA Board. The motion was seconded and approval was unanimous.

The Vice Chairman asked for a motion to extend the meeting for an additional 15 minutes. A motion was made to extend the meeting and seconded. Approval was unanimous.

The Vice Chair recognized Sagirah Jones for clarification of the procedure to update CES representation. Legal asked for certification in the form of a written certificate of appointment. It was agreed that a certificate of appointment from community groups should be forwarded to FMLRA for update and then added to the agenda following its receipt for approval.

TPS Community Fund

The Vice Chair recognized the written information concerning Tyler Perry's contribution to help senior Atlanta homeowners and requested that the CES members read the article.

Rocket Community Fund:

The Vice Chair recognized the written information concerning the Rocket Community Fund and requested that the CES members read the article.

Fort Mac LRA Updates:

David Burt, FMLRA Executive Director was unable to attend. Tamie Cook requested that if Mr. Burt is unable to attend a meeting, that the Chair of MILRA send a representative to provide a report, at every meeting, and keep the lines of communication open. She asked that this request be reflected in the minutes. Ms. Cook also requested that the Chair of the CES, Thomas Calloway, provide the CES with an update on the status of the letter to the Board and public officials. A motion was made that the Community Engagement Subcommittee requests that the letter be discussed at the very next MILRA Board meeting. The motion was seconded, and approval was unanimous.

Update-FMLRA Community Benefits Committee:

No meeting scheduled.

Public Comments #2:

There was no one present.

Announcements:

There were no announcements.

Adjournment:

The Vice Chairman requested a motion to adjourn. A motion was properly made and seconded. Approval was unanimous. The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:45P.M.

(Signatures follow)

Recorded By:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joyce Allen". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Joyce Allen,
Senior Administrative Assistant

Approved By:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David Burt". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

David Burt,
Executive Director