

# 10<sup>th</sup> & Page CDBG TASK FORCE

## Minutes

Neighborhood Development Services Conference Room, City Hall

Wednesday, January 18, 2017

6:00pm – 7:30pm

### **Attendance:**

<b>Task Force Members</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
James Bryant	X	
Taneaia Dowell		X
Vezena Howard		X
Joy Johnson		X
Sharon Jones	X	
Seth Kelley	X	
Tim Padalino	X	
Lyle Solla-Yates	X	
Ali Radjavi	X	
Tierra Howard (staff)	X	
<b>Others:</b>		
Carl Schwarz - Resident	X	

The meeting began at 6:00 pm. Tierra Howard (TH) provided an overview of the meeting agenda. TH explained that she would review the priorities as listed on the CDBG 10<sup>th</sup> & Page Priority List (attached) and that the topics would be discussed by the Task Force (TF). She explained that the goal of the meeting is to have an agreement on a general list of ranked priorities.

### **Review and Discussion of Priorities**

#### 10<sup>th</sup> Street (St) NW & West St. Intersection Improvements

- TH explained that staff would like feedback on the draft plan if it ends up being a priority for the TF. TH explained that she met with the Department of Parks and Recreation to discuss landscaping options within the 10<sup>th</sup> St NW & West St intersection project. She explained that landscaping would not be possible due to departmental budget cuts and issues with maintenance. TH also explained that the neighborhood could consider the “adopt a spot” program. TH explained that the TF could consider different types of pavement (brick or colored stamped) within the project as well.
- Seth Kelley (SK) explained that he feels that improvements at the intersection are important because he walks his children to school and they have to cross the intersection. He explained that visibility is an issue at the intersection. He feels that the draft plan is overkill and suggests that the intersection only needs bright flashing lights on both sides of the street and one major crosswalk or a cross-hatch delineation across the entire intersection. SK stated that improvements at the intersection are crucial because students of different ages cross at the intersection every day and wait for the bus to pick them up at the intersection.

- Sharon Jones (SJ) stated that her brother has also experienced difficulty with crossing the intersection because cars do not stop to allow him to cross the street.
- TH explained that the intersection was brought up at a Venable Town Hall City meeting.
- SJ stated that if the TF decides to recommend an intervention at 10<sup>th</sup> St NW & West St, then the TF should also consider improvements at the 10<sup>th</sup> St NW & Page St intersection because the same issues are occurring at each intersection. She explained that as a result of the construction on Main St, traffic has increased on 10<sup>th</sup> St which was not a consideration when the older study was conducted). TH explained that if the TF decides to fund a study for the 10<sup>th</sup> St NW & Page St intersection, then improvements must be made as a result of the study because CDBG funds must meet a national objective and must benefit eligible residents.
- SK stated that pedestrians do not have the right of way. SK explained that the hill at 10<sup>th</sup> St NW & West St makes it hard for drivers to see the crosswalk. He also stated that there is a lack of signage to alert drivers that there is a crossing at the intersection.
- Carl Schwarz (CS) asked if there was a way to predict what the results of the study on 10<sup>th</sup> St NW & Page St would be so that the TF could have a cost estimate of the improvements. TH reviewed the staff suggestions as listed on the CDBG 10<sup>th</sup> St NW & Page St priority list (attached), however TH stated that a new study would need to be conducted to determine what the best solution would be at the intersection. SK asked when the previous study was completed. TH stated that she was unsure and that she would follow-up with the TF. SJ inquired about the results of a speed study that was conducted on 10<sup>th</sup> St NW. TH stated that she did not know. SJ suggested that if there was a speed study conducted, then there had to be a speeding issue being investigated on 10<sup>th</sup> St NW.
- Lyle Yates (LY) expressed his support of prioritizing the improvements at the 10<sup>th</sup> St NW & West St intersection but he stated that one criticism is that the project at 10<sup>th</sup> St NW & West St would not benefit children who live in Westhaven (who get on the bus to go to Burnley Moran). He suggested that the project would serve a limited amount of persons but overall, he suggested that the project is a good idea.
- SJ stated that there are also kids from the neighborhood who go to Venable, Walker, Buford and Charlottesville High School who would benefit from the improvements. SK stated that students wait on both sides of the corner to get on the bus and they run across the intersection to get across safely.
- SK recommended that we do not include two sets of flash rapid beacons if removing one set would reduce the cost of the project. He suggested that the flash rapid beacons should be elevated so that people can see them and that only one crosswalk needs to be installed.

#### 10<sup>th</sup> St NW & Wertland St and 10<sup>th</sup> NW St & Page St Improvements

- TH informed the group that if pedestrian signals are installed at 10<sup>th</sup> St & Wertland St intersection, then ADA requirements must also be met (according to VDOT requirements).
- SK asked if ADA requirements also apply to the 10<sup>th</sup> St NW & West St draft plan, specifically where the plan outlines sidewalk extensions. TH stated that she would have to follow-up with staff.

- TP stated that crossing 10<sup>th</sup> St NW safely is a top priority for him. TP stated the 10<sup>th</sup> St NW & West St intersection and the 10<sup>th</sup> St NW & Page St intersections are the most critical priorities. TP stated that he feels like the Wertland St intersection is less critical compared to the other intersections because it seems as if it is not serving as many pedestrians as the 10<sup>th</sup> St NW & Page St and 10<sup>th</sup> St NW & West St intersections. TP stated that you can get more bang for your buck at other areas. SJ stated that Wertland St seems to serve UVA pedestrians.
- Ali Radjavi (AR) stated that he agrees that the West St and Page St intersections are important.
- James Bryant (JB) asked TH to explain what the differences are in relation to funding the 10<sup>th</sup> St NW & West St improvements and the 10<sup>th</sup> St NW & Page St improvements. TH stated that a study will be required at the 10<sup>th</sup> St NW & Page St intersection but not at the 10<sup>th</sup> St NW & West St intersection since the City already has a draft plan. JB asked how long it would take to do a study and TH stated that she can check with staff on the timing of the study. JB stated that he has seen an increase in traffic on 10<sup>th</sup> St NW since he has been a resident on 10<sup>th</sup> St NW. He stated that drivers speed constantly, especially when they are driving down the hill heading south on 10<sup>th</sup> St NW. He stated that it is just a matter of time until someone is killed at that intersection. SK asked if there was an incident that happened on 10<sup>th</sup> St NW involving a cyclist and the curb cuts. He stated that the bump outs are a hazard and that the City should have to fix or remove the bump outs. SK stated that there is not a bike lane on 10<sup>th</sup> St NW. CS stated that there are no bike lanes because the speed limit is supposed to be 25 mph.
- AR asked if raised intersections operate like speed bumps and if they will decrease traffic speed. He suggested that maybe the solution is to install speed bumps (not the small ones but the wide ones that are raised). JB stated that the installation of speed bumps would back up the traffic on 10<sup>th</sup> St NW. JB stated that due to the Roosevelt Brown Boulevard street closures, traffic does not die down until about 6:00pm – 7:00pm on 10<sup>th</sup> St NW.
- SJ mentioned that speed data should not have to be collected for a new study if the data has already been collected.
- TH explained that if a study is conducted for the 10<sup>th</sup> St NW & Page St intersection, then improvements must be made as a result due to HUD requirements. The requirements state that if CDBG funds are expended for technical assistance (study) then the study must result in a low to moderate income area (LMA) benefit.

#### Neighborhood Signage

- AR stated that he feels like the signs would be nice but the price is expensive. He stated that if the group wants a sign then maybe they can have a local person create one. He stated that he feels like the signs are not impressive and that they do not warrant the price tag. CS stated that the quote from Gropen is reasonable.
- TP stated that there is a nice 10<sup>th</sup> St NW & Page St neighborhood sign near Kardinal Hall on 8<sup>th</sup> St, however, he feels that the neighborhood should have signs that alert persons that they are entering a neighborhood and should not be speeding. He believes that signage could bring a place making value to the neighborhood. TP stated that the amount of the sign is less than one percent of the current budget and the 10<sup>th</sup> & Page Neighborhood may have an additional \$200,000 in FY 2017-2018. He stated that if a sign could be placed at the 10<sup>th</sup> St NW & West St intersection and

near the West Main entrance, then the signage may prevent speeding. AR stated that the signs may be worthwhile and may alert motorists that they are actually about to enter a neighborhood, therefore he understands the value.

- LY stated that he thought that it would be a good idea to include a neighborhood sign at the 8<sup>th</sup> St & Hardy Dr location (City-owned) lot.

#### Preston Avenue Pedestrian Crossing Study

- The group asked if the City increased the timing at the Rose Hill Drive and 9<sup>th</sup> St intersection. TH stated that she would need to follow-up with staff to get an update.
- SK stated that 8<sup>th</sup> St would be an ideal location to cross because it would make sense to have a crossing at that location.
- CS asked TH if funding a crossing improvement at Preston Avenue would be pricey and TH stated that she did not know but can imagine that it might be due to the four lanes of traffic on Preston Avenue.

#### Sidewalk Connectivity

- TH provided an overview of the cost of Albemarle St and stated that staff is unable to provide a timeline of when the project will begin with CIP funds due to lack of staff capacity. TH reviewed the information provided on the priority list.
- SK stated that it sounds like the City is resolving the issue with the poles in the sidewalk by constructing sidewalks on the other side of the street where there are no poles.
- TH stated that staff informed her that the whole stretch of Albemarle St from 8<sup>th</sup> St to West St can be funded with CIP funds, however, the timing is unknown.
- CS stated that he was going to ask the group to strongly consider voting on the Albemarle St sidewalk as a top priority, however, if it's already on the list then he will not make that suggestion to the TF.
- AR asked if the sidewalk is at the top of the CIP sidewalk list for completion. TH stated that she would have to follow-up with staff.
- SJ asked if the group chooses the sidewalk as a priority will the neighborhood have to wait for the City to do the work or will the work be contracted out. TH stated that the work will be contracted out.
- AR stated that the one portion of the sidewalk that is already on the list is owed to the neighborhood because it is very dangerous and there have been accidents at the location. He stated that the City has been saying that it will get done, however, nothing has been done to date. He stated that the Page St to West St portion of the sidewalk should be a bonus project that can be funded with CDBG funds. He stated that maybe CDBG can be used to fund a sidewalk on the railroad side of Albemarle St.
- TP stated that the group should self-organize on this issue if the group decides that it is not a priority for CDBG. TP stated that they should bring up the issue at a City Council meeting.
- The group decided that the Albemarle St sidewalk is a top priority, however not a CDBG priority because it already has a funding stream.
- TP stated that it is probably not valuable to add a sidewalk on the east side of 9<sup>th</sup> St if trees have to be removed. He stated that there are not that many trees on 9<sup>th</sup> St TP stated that constructing sidewalks on both sides of 9<sup>th</sup> St with CDBG funds may not be as valuable as other potential projects in the neighborhood.

- SK expressed concern over the issue of utility poles located in the middle of the sidewalk.

#### Lighting on Page St

- SJ stated that she brought up the lighting concern but didn't realize that the lighting would cost that much. She stated that there is light at 11<sup>th</sup> St, however, lighting does not continue until you get to the dead end of Page St (lights are missing in between).
- AR stated that lights do a lot for safety therefore it should be considered as a priority.
- TP stated that he is supportive of the project because it can happen quickly and will increase safety in the neighborhood. The group agreed with TP.

#### CRHA Storm water Drainage Study

- TH stated that Joy mentioned that there is a flooding issue on the Charlottesville Redevelopment and Housing Authority (CRHA) property at Hardy Drive. TH reviewed the notes on the priority list. TH stated that the CRHA conducted a storm water drainage study in an area near the basketball courts (sinkhole). TH stated that the issue that Joy is referring to is located in a different location than the location that identified in the study. City staff suggested that it is likely that more storm water drainage infrastructure will need to be installed in the area of concern.
- The group was concerned that if the study was funded, CDBG may not be able to fund the recommended solutions due to the unknown costs.
- AR stated that he is concerned overall with funding studies with CDBG due to unknown results. He asked if there were any other studies that the group felt strongly about. TH stated that there is a group consensus that the 10<sup>th</sup> St NW & Page St study is a top priority.

#### 8<sup>th</sup> St & Hardy Drive Site (City-owned lot)

- TH provided an update of her discussion with the Department of Parks and Recreation.
- SJ asked if the Department of Parks and Recreation would be able to maintain the park. TH stated that it would most likely depend on the type of park. TH stated that details need to be discussed with the Parks department. SJ asked about lighting. TH stated that Chris Gensic from Parks and Recreation did not include lighting in his cost estimate.
- AR stated that he is most concerned about fixing the infrastructure at the site. He stated that 8<sup>th</sup> St & Hardy Drive is one of the entry points to the neighborhood. He noted that thing that you see upon entering the neighborhood is trash and vines. There was a discussion about opportunities for organizations to collaborate on projects at the site.
- TH stated that a study was conducted in 2014 which focused primarily on grading the area to prime it for a park but the study did not include the cost of park equipment and maintenance.
- TH explained that more community engagement would need to be involved if the group decided that having a park at this location would be important. Parks would need to be involved and also the neighbors to the site.

- CS expressed his desire to clean the site up, grade the site, and prepare the site for future opportunities. AR stated that he has talked to a representative from the funeral home and he is interested in seeing something get done on the site.
- AR suggested that the group should not think of the site as an area for a potential park but maybe emphasize the need for grading the area as a priority. AR mentioned that space would serve Westhaven residents. He stated that it serves as an entry point into the neighborhood.
- JB brought up the fact that the neighbors would need to be involved and that there may be some resistance. AR stated that no one would be opposed to fixing the area up or cleaning it up.
- AR suggested that the group should not focus on calling the site a park and that perhaps the group should focus on beautifying the space and grading the site.

### **Task Force Rank and Vote on Priorities**

On a motion by TP, seconded by SK, the CDBG 10<sup>th</sup> & Page Priority Neighborhood Task Force unanimously approved the following projects as priorities for CDBG priority neighborhood funding (in order of top priority to lowest):

- 1) Intersection improvements at 10<sup>th</sup> St NW & West St;
- 2) Intersection study at 10<sup>th</sup> St NW & Page St with the intention that some improvements are made as a result of the study;
- 3) Beautification at the 8<sup>th</sup> St & Hardy Drive site;
- 4) Lighting at the end of Page St; and
- 5) Installation of three signs where applicable (to be determined by TF)

The group noted that the other items listed on the priority list are of priority, however, the TF recommends focusing funds on the top three priorities first. The other items are to be considered at a later date provided that there is additional funding leftover. The group did not prioritize the Albemarle St sidewalk because the TF has made an assumption that the City will take care of it with CIP funds.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.