



Washington Heights Advisory Committee Meeting
6:00 pm Wednesday October 12, 2022
Second Missionary Baptist Church
485 Washington Ave N, Battle Creek, MI 49037

WASHINGTON HEIGHTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Lynn Ward Gray, CCLBA Board Liaison
Jenasia Morris, Ward 2 City Commissioner
Rochelle Hatcher, District 2 County Commissioner
Ron Sweet, Vice Chair, NPC2
Dr. Elishae Johnson, Chair, CCG
Marcelle Heath, Section 1
Brigetta Phillips-Freeman, Section 2
Shirley McKinney, Section 3

Shanay Settles, Section 4
Aric Vaughn, Section 5
Dennis McKinley, At-Large
Arniece Montgomery, At-Large
Hannah Frentz, At-Large
Damon Brown, At-Large
Centhia Fleming, Alternate
Sherrill Cotton, Alternate

AGENDA

1. Call to Order

Vice Chair Ron Sweet called the meeting to order at 6:09pm as a Committee of the Whole of the Advisory Committee due to the lack of a quorum.

Roll Call: Shirley McKinney, Dennis McKinley, Aric Vaughn, Arniece Montgomery, and Marcelle Heath, in attendance.

Rochelle Hatcher and Sherrill Cotton (Alternate 2) were absent. Lynn Ward Gray, Jenasia Morris, Dr. Elishae Johnson, Brigetta Phillips-Freeman, Shanay Settles, Hannah Frentz, Damon Brown and Centhia Fleming (Alternate 1) were excused.

Because a quorum was not established, committee members in attendance selected to meet as a Committee of the Whole of the Advisory Committee to hear the presentation from the Battle Creek Area Habitat for Humanity and the CCLBA Report.

Staff: Krista Trout-Edwards, Executive Director and Amy Rose Robinson, Property & Project Coordinator.

2. Approval of Agenda – Postponed

3. Citizen Comment

None.

4. Consent Agenda – Postponed

5. CCLBA Report

Krista Trout-Edwards presented the CCLBA report.

a. Youth Member Representative:

As presented, and Ms. Trout-Edwards noted that the item on the agenda to extend the deadline could not be voted on tonight.

b. City of Battle Creek Items:

- i. **Recap of 2020 Citywide Rezone** – as presented.
- ii. **Historic District Commission** – as presented.

Dennis McKinley asked about available funding for properties in the Historic Districts, specific to vacant parcels.

Amy Rose Robinson explained that there were grant funds available through the Michigan Historic Preservation Network for historic homes owned; however, most of those grants were for houses owned by non-profit organizations rather than privately owned homes.

Dennis McKinley was referring to beautification funding.

Ms. Trout-Edwards mentioned that the funding for the CCLBA grant included beautification projects, which will be included in the discussion about goals at a later date.

- iii. **City of Battle Creek Demolition Data** – Ms. Trout-Edwards presented the demolition data that was clarified with the City of Battle Creek (data from 2011-2022) and shared a supplemental table that summarized the number of projects and who completed them.

c. Informational Items | Upcoming Items:

- i. **Community Walking Tour #2** – as presented
- ii. **Community Clean-up** – as presented
- iii. **Battle Creek Area Association of Realtors Homeownership Workshop** – as presented
- iv. **GIS Training** – Ms. Robinson provided training to members prior to the meeting. Members in attendance included Arniece Montgomery, Shirley McKinney, Dennis McKinley, Aric Vaughn and Ron Sweet.
- v. **Subcommittees**
 - a. Sidewalk and Lighting Subcommittee – *informational only*
 - b. History Subcommittee
Ms. Trout-Edwards explained that staff needed assistance locating businesses on a map, and that staff would be willing to meet committee members for coffee to go over maps so that could be distinguished for history purposes.
- vi. **November Meeting Items**
 - a. Goals for Affecting properties – *Postponed*

6. Presentations

a. Battle Creek Area Habitat for Humanity (BCAHFH)

Ms. Trout-Edwards introduced Battle Creek Area Habitat for Humanity (BCAHFH) Executive Director, Robert Phillips and Construction Manager, Mike King.

Robert Phillips presented the most recent projects in the neighborhood on Wood St N, which were purchased from the CCLBA and completed in 2022. He added that Habitat celebrated the completion with a Rock-The-Block event in that same area and shared information about their current project at 47 Hubbard St. He concluded with an update on Habitat's MSHDA funding for critical home repairs.

Mike King presented the mission of BCAHFH and stated that they help people in need that may not qualify for a conventional mortgage. He explained that many homes were built on Vineyard St, Helen M. Montgomery Ave, Baldwin Ave, Washington Ave and Hanover St through a program called Blitz Build. He also explained the ramp program and invited the committee to help build a ramp in the neighborhood for a resident in need.

Arniece Montgomery expressed concern that neighborhood residents needed the opportunity to buy the homes being renovated by Habitat and ensuring the community is treated right.

Mr. Sweet mentioned that the Adventist Village bought property in the neighborhood through another non-profit in Battle Creek. He said that based on that and other history, the committee will scrutinize organizations that work in the neighborhood.

Robert Phillips explained that Habitat would like to work together in this neighborhood on whatever project is necessary. He said that they are in the very early stages of plans for infill housing.

Mike King added that Habitat knows that it would like to work with the Advisory Committee to help bring more housing to the neighborhood.

7. Discussion Items

- a. Goal setting – *Postponed*

8. New Business

- a. Discuss and accept proposed Conflict of Interest policy as presented to govern the Washington Heights Neighborhood Advisory Committee and recommend approval of the same by the CCLBA Board of Directors. *Motion WH 22-16 - Postponed*
- b. Discuss and recommend new timeline for Youth Representative Position applicants. *Motion WH 22-17 - Postponed*

8. Citizen Comment

None.

9. Board Member Comments & Announcements

None.

10. Adjournment

Mr. Ron Sweet adjourned the meeting at 7:03pm

Next Meeting: November 9, 2022, 6:00 pm at Second Missionary Baptist Church.