



Freedom Wall Stakeholder's Meeting

April 9, 2021 at 4:30 PM

Meeting Notes

In Attendance: Audrey Clark, Samantha White, Lynn King, Sydney Collins, Sharon Holley, Melissa Weiksnar, Helen Tederous, Darren Kempner, Patrick Ravines, Stephanie Wong-You, Zeneta Everhart, Chris Murawski

1. Intro of the Project by Samantha White

- a. Samantha speaks about how the area surrounding the freedom wall is not up to the standards of the icons represented and introduces Lynn King, local attorney and mediator who will facilitate the meeting.

2. Community Input Session

- a. **Preservation of Art** - Patrick Ravines, chemist and conservationist with Buffalo State. Wants to create an environment for preservation/preventive decay. Chair of the Conservation department. They can offer assistance to help preserve the murals.
- b. **Thoughts from project initiator Melissa Weiksnar** – wants simple and sustainable. Access for the differently-abled, how can we make it inclusive? Wonders if we can have painted path from the NFTA to the wall to lead them there. Master gardeners have looked at the site and think it could be difficult to get plants that are able to withstand the snow/salt/etc. Also wonders if there are security issues.
 - i. Helen Tederous – so far no issues with graffiti. They do have substantial security in that area.
- c. **Bloomberg Foundation Asphalt Art Grant** – presented by Samantha to have artwork produced on the asphalt to complement the freedom wall. The city has committed to repaving the roadway. They could possibly add bump outs. If bump outs happen, which would lead to parking, we would advocate for free parking.
- d. **Wayfinding** - Chris Murawski – Buffalo Waterkeeper and Broderick park. Wants to see the slowing of traffic. Wants to have signs pointing to Broderick Park. Sharon Holley – wants to mention the school and how it slows traffic. Parents and kids have to turn around and in the empty lot. Also doesn't think we should over do the wall. She thinks less is better. Stephanie Wong – wondering about wayfinding signs. Zeneta Everhart – working with MSAHCC to do banners and billboard for creative wayfaring. Also suggests electronic billboards.
- e. **Accessability** - Lynn King asks how people who need benches and chairs (differently abled) could get around the lack of benches. Sharon suggests they bring their own benches. Melissa suggests that we need to have a bus or trolley to tour people around.

- f. **Process** - Sharon wants the process to be advertised. The original art had a feeling like the people of the community weren't being heard. Thinks that the AME church wasn't engaged enough. Says the original meetings were held at the school. Chris says we should put a print ad in the challenger for them to cut out and mail in. Chris took out a quarter space ad and let people mail in for several months. Also wants to point out that we need to view people who live there more strongly than people who just drive through.
- g. **Wrap up** – we will be sending out a survey link soon. Feel free to send out more.