

MEETING MINUTES | MSAAHC WEEKLY CHECK-IN

PROJECT	Michigan Street African American Heritage Corridor Strategic Action Plan	DATE	July 7, 2021
ATTENDEES	Moody Nolan (MN) MSAAHCC Lord Cultural Resources (LCR)	LOCATION	Zoom Conference Call
	Terry Alford Audrey Clark Sharon Holley Sandy White Latoya Nelson-Kamdang Dawne David-Pierre Sophia Bullock Isoke Miller-Harris Tiffany Lyons Marques McClary	PREPARED BY	Isoke Miller-Harris

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE DISCUSSED DURING THE MEETING

1. Introduced new Lord Cultural Consulting Team Member, Marques McClary
2. Update on Interviews conducted to date and ongoing scheduling.
 - a. Joy is going on vacation next week.
 - b. Marques and Tiffany will be tackling the remaining interviews next week.
 - c. Mayor Brown interview is scheduled for on Tuesday (07/06)
 - d. Interviewed so far:
 1. April Baskins
 2. Barbara Deborah Williams
 3. Charles Brandy
 4. Al Price
 5. Jim Pitts
 6. Kenneth and Sharon Holley
 7. Eva Doyle
 8. Paulette Woods
3. Discussed the status of designated developer request
 - a. Mayor met with MSAAHC in person.
 - i. Mayor Brown agreed not to sell off more on those properties directly in the corridor.
 - ii. They will wait until the strategic plan is completed and have every intention to grant some of the lots to the commission or anchors.
 - iii. Mayor's office does not plan on giving designated developer status because they believe it is not needed.



- iv. Financial sometime in July as well as the sanitation garage (maybe a hotel there?)
 - a. The City & County are all working together to get it out of the area - they all see the importance of it not being near the corridor.
 - b. MSAAHC would like to see early ideas for that space. It would be great to present them to the mayor.
4. Discussed engaging with Visit Buffalo Niagara
- a. Confirm peak tourism seasons, flow and key events in the yearly calendar.
 - i. Ed Healy, Vice President - introduction – the group will schedule a time to spend a half day to meet with many people at Visit Buffalo Niagara.
 - ii. The team will provide a list of questions/outline to present to Ed Healy so they can determine who we need to speak to at Visit Buffalo Niagara.
 - iii. This meeting should take place after our key engagement findings solidified. It may be helpful for Jon Stover to be involved in the conversation.
 - iv. Sandy suggested the team collect tourism data in advance from Visit Buffalo Niagara to give to Jon Stover as a starting point.
5. Discussed upcoming potential administration change
- a. What are the anticipated changes or implications relative to the corridor with new incoming Mayor India Walton?
 - b. Continued efforts to engage with Mayor Brown?
 - i. Perspective of Commission is business as usual. The Commission does not endorse any candidates.
 - ii. The Commission reached out to Ms. Walton previously.
7. WUFO and Black Radio Collective – update on engagement and status of development plans.
- a. Do not anticipate lot 507 being built for another year or so.
 - b. Terry & Audrey to reach out to Sheila to reconnect Moody Nolan.
8. Updates on Anchor Institution construction projects
- a. Colored Musicians Club – update TBD
 - b. Michigan Street Baptist Church - update TBD
 - i. Michigan Street Baptist Church & Colored Musicians Club should be announcing they will be breaking ground soon.
9. Canalside Development – community members have expressed displeasure with the amount of development at Canalside. What do people find so objectionable? (We will also try to include this in our community conversation.)
- a. Too Dense, Too Commercial. It used to be open and a lovely park with live music. It has become too much of a tourist attraction - trying to get money from visitors at every turn. They keep building and the waterfront is disappearing. Local residents don't spend much time there anymore.
 - b. Audrey - difference between canal side & the corridor - it was always supposed to be park and open, but the corridor was denser in the past. More economic eco-system.
 - c. Farmers markets on one side of the corridor.
6. Review 3D model and zoning overlay
- a. Zoning variances anticipated as part of Corridor development? None anticipated.
 - b. Does it make sense to densify certain areas?
 - i. Dawne - Clarification of the density question
 - ii. Not off base on assumption of not wanting to go bigger/denser.

Questions:

1. Sandy - Will we be polling as we look at the designs?



- a. Yes, in the community engagement meeting we will poll.
- b. Tiffany - we can collaborate on where we think polling should go in the presentation.

Action Items

- Meeting minutes to be distributed with next week's agenda.

