MINUTES

Rosenwald Community Advisory Board

Thursday, February 15, 2024 - 6:00 PM
Mary C. Jenkins Community & Cultural Center

Members Present:	Pamela Holder, Co-Chair, Council Member Randy Lytle, Co-Chair Gary Daniel, Council Member Victor Foster, Citizen Member Susan Threlkel, Citizen Member Edith Darity, Citizen Member (Arrived 6:04pm) Ella Jones, Citizen Member Rebecca Wynn, Citizen Member Mayor Maureen Copelof, Ex-Officio
Staff Present:	Wilson Hooper, City Manager Tyree Griffin, Community Center Director Alex Shepherd, Assistant to the City Manager
Guest Present:	Elizabeth Pell

A. Welcome & Call to Order

Co-Chair Pamela Holder welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

B. Invocation

Mr. Foster offered an invocation.

C. Certification of Quorum

Quorum was certified by Assistant to the City Manager Alex Shepherd.

D. Approval of Agenda

Ms. Holder made a request to add item E. African American Historical Markers to the agenda. Motion by Mr. Foster, seconded by Ms. Wynn, to approve the agenda as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

E. African American Historical Markers Project

Ms. Pell presented a project aimed at enhancing the African American Historic Markers. There are over forty markers around the County, with the majority located in the

Rosenwald Community, totaling eighteen markers. Our vision is to create a space around each marker to enhance its visibility. We plan to improve around ten markers each year, starting with those near the Community Center. Our plan involves planting 90% native plants to ensure they thrive with minimal maintenance. We have volunteers, the local rotary club, and possibly the garden club to assist with maintenance. Presenting this today is crucial because some markers are on private and public property, necessitating approval from the City to garden around each marker. Additionally, we require the City's public works department to identify utility lines and potentially install steps near Georgia Hill due to its steep terrain.

Ms. Copelof raised a concern that many markers are on private property, suggesting potential issues if the City is asked to build steps on someone's private property. She emphasized the need for an easement.

Mr. Hooper agreed that obtaining an easement would be necessary.

Ms. Copelof asked if Ms. Pell has spoken to the homeowners to obtain their approval.

Ms. Pell confirmed that she has spoken with the homeowners near the Community Center.

Ms. Copelof recalled a discussion at the garden club meeting where concerns were raised due to the lack of a nearby water source. She suggested considering hardscaping by installing rocks around each marker to make them stand out, as it would require less maintenance.

Ms. Darity mentioned they have planted Hosta and Knock Out Roses, which seem to be thriving.

Ms. Copelof noted that Hosta would not survive in full sun, which some of the markers are exposed to.

Mr. Daniel expressed interest in gathering more neighborhood feedback, proposing the idea of adopting the garden and assisting with maintenance.

Mr. Holder suggested putting the project on hold until approval from property owners is obtained and to explore if neighborhood volunteers or other groups would assist in maintaining the gardens.

Mr. Hooper informed the committee that staff needs to conduct due diligence before proceeding further. This includes identifying the markers, contacting property owners, assessing physical constraints such as utilities, and checking for existing easements.

Ms. Pell offered to lead a tour of the markers for the committee.

Mr. Hooper requested addresses to facilitate the planning process.

The committee came to a consensus to do more research on the historical markers and to revisit the project at a later date.

F. MCJCCC Security Measures Update

Mr. Hooper informed the committee that we have enhanced privacy protections in the policy. Only three individuals may access the security footage within the building: Tyree, Tom Jordan, and myself. The cameras will solely monitor public areas, and the footage will be retained for thirty days unless required for an investigation. Similar cameras will be installed at the Railroad Depot and French Broad Community Center, with these policies applying to those facilities as well.

Mr. Lytle inquired about the possibility of retrieving erased footage.

Mr. Hooper indicated that there might be a method, potentially involving the FBI.

Ms. Holder asked about the frequency of image review.

Mr. Hooper clarified that images would not be reviewed unless necessary. Following further consultation with staff, this will be incorporated into our administrative policy, and adjustments will be made to the rental agreement.

G. Juneteenth Celebration Update

Mr. Griffin presented a chart outlining the services utilized for Juneteenth and their associated costs. In 2022, we allocated $5,900 for the Juneteenth Celebration, and last year, the expenditure was $5,600. Emphasizing that the celebration is not profit-driven but rather a means to honor the community, he mentioned his discussions with Hendersonville Tents, the City of Brevard Police and Fire Departments, the ice cream truck, and Griffin Outhouse, all of whom will continue to provide their services at the same rates as in previous years.

Mr. Lytle provided an update on the food truck arrangements, mentioning that we have confirmed Ursula's participation, and we are awaiting responses from Circle B and Daddy D's.

Ms. Holder asked if people would pay a flat fee or are there different costs.

Mr. Lytle said we are trying to plan for 250 people for the entire festival. I have told the food trucks that the fee would be around $10-12 a plate.

Mr. Foster mentioned that with assistance from the City, we aim to keep costs down.

Mr. Lytle explained that we are considering a ticket system, where attendees would purchase tickets to exchange for food at the vendors. Vendors would then return the tickets to us for payment.

Mr. Hooper proposed buying out each food truck, ideally at a cost not exceeding $1,000 per truck. He suggested distributing around 250 tickets for this purpose.

Mr. Lytle inquired about the timeline for determining the buyout costs for the food trucks.

Mr. Hooper replied that we should ascertain this information as soon as possible. Each food truck could be instructed to prepare one-hundred $10 plates in anticipation of the event.

H. MCJCCC Lighting Update

Mr. Griffin presented a quote to the committee provided by Matthew Queen at the Brevard Music Center. The cost of materials is $920.83, excluding labor. He expressed the desire to complete this project before summer.

Mr. Hooper remarked on the surprisingly low cost of the project, expressing optimism that funding could be secured for it within the current fiscal year.

I. Set Date for Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, March 21, 2024 at 6:00 PM at the Mary C. Jenkins Community & Cultural Center.

J. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:53 PM.

X
Pamela Holder
Co-Chair

Minutes Approved: March 21, 2024

X
Alex Shepherd,
Assistant to the City Manager