# MINUTES

## Rosenwald Community Advisory Board

**Thursday, March 21, 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
Ella Jones, Citizen Member
Mayor Maureen Copelof, Ex-Officio

Staff Present: Alex Shepherd, Assistant to the City Manager
Tyree Griffin, Community Center Director

### A. Welcome & Call to Order

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

### B. Invocation

Ms. Holder 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 H. Memorial Bricks Update to the agenda. Motion by Mr. Daniel, seconded by Mr. Foster, to approve the agenda as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

### E. Approval of Minutes from January 11, 2024 and February 15, 2024

Motion by Ms. Threlkel, seconded by Mr. Lytle to approve the minutes of the January 11, 2024 and February 15, 2024 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

### F. Juneteenth Celebration Update

Mr. Griffin updated the Board that the Juneteenth event is scheduled for Saturday, June 15th,

starting at 11 am and concluding at 5 pm. He mentioned that everything on the City's side is still progressing, including obtaining the permit, organizing ice cream, and coordinating with the police and fire departments.

Ms. Holder informed the Board that on Sunday, June 16th, we are planning to hold a joint service with historically African American churches. She mentioned that we have already met with all the pastors, who are in agreement with the plan.

Mr. Lytle mentioned that we are still making progress. We have vendors lined up, and he will collaborate with Mr. Hooper to establish a budget for them. He added that we are actively involving more people, filling booths, and arranging music for the event, and everything is proceeding smoothly.

## G. Green Space Adoption

Mr. Shepherd informed the Board that typically, when we receive green space applications, they flow through the Parks, Trails, and Recreation Committee. However, since this request is for the Cashiers Valley parking lot, we felt it was necessary to bring this to the Rosenwald Community Advisory Board first. He stated that Ms. Haight would like to replace all the plants currently there with her landscaping map and cover the expenses fully.

Mr. Daniel asked if the Board approves this, would it go back to the Parks, Trails, and Recreation Committee.

Mr. Shepherd confirmed.

Mr. Daniel mentioned that because she is removing everything, there should be a guaranteed bond to cover us in case she doesn't replant after removing the current plants.

Mayor Copelof noted that we have never dealt with someone wanting to replace all the plants before. She said the adopt-a-green-space program was created to maintain what we currently have planted. The idea is to help us weed, pick up trash, and notify us of any problems with the green space. Mayor Copelof mentioned that she liked the suggested plants, as they are native and already planted in our other green spaces. She added that we already have a problem maintaining the Tannery Skatepark Green Space, where someone planted plants and said maybe she would be interested in the Tannery Green Space instead. There is also no near by water source.

Mr. Lytle asked if there is a contract if someone promises to maintain the green space.

Mayor Copelof explained that the agreement is for one year and only states that they agree to maintain it and not use chemicals during that year.

Mr. Foster asked which plants the applicant is looking to remove.

Mr. Shepherd explained that she wants to remove everything, as stated in the staff report.

Ms. Threlkel informed the Board that we have an empty backyard where we could relocate these plants.

Mr. Daniel mentioned that it's a good idea, but his concern is what happens if she backs out halfway through.

Ms. Jones mentioned that the Mayor alluded to a water source. She said there is one in the community area but not near the parking lot, making it difficult to maintain without a water source.

Ms. Holder asked if she has staff and how large the plants would get.

Mr. Shepherd answered that it's just her.

Mayor Copelof mentioned that she would be installing red maple trees, which can get large, as well as butterfly weed, mountain mint, phlox, and perennials.

Ms. Holder expressed concern about security because a big tree could block the streetlight.

Ms. Threlkel asked if Ms. Haight would have the opportunity to address our concerns.

Mr. Daniel agreed that she should. He wasn't sure how she would complete this in one year.

Mr. Shepherd noted the questions the committee wanted to ask Ms. Haight. He said he would ask her if there is no cost to the city, if she would be interested in the Tannery Skatepark, if she can complete the project in one year, if she plans to plant trees that don't interfere with street lighting, if she has staff to water and maintain them, if she would sign a three-year agreement, if she would be interested in planting in another area, and if she would attend the next meeting.

At 6:20 PM, Mr. Foster motioned, seconded by Ms. Jones, to invite Ms. Haight to the next meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

## H. Memorial Bricks Update

Mr. Griffin mentioned that before he started working here, there were supposed to be memorial bricks placed at Mary C. Jenkins and at Silversteen Park. He said he has a list of names and where the bricks will be laid.

Mayor Copelof said Ms. Pinson in planning should also have a list of where all the bricks should be placed. She said the bricks are currently stored at public works.

Mr. Lytle asked if it's feasible to place the bricks somewhere visible, and if needed, move them later.

Ms. Darity mentioned that the church had donated $10,000 for a picnic shelter. She emphasized the importance of following through on that commitment. She suggested that if the original planned site is not available, it could be placed near the playground. Mayor Copelof recalled that the original plan was to place it on the far side of the playground near the house. She noted that there is still room for it there, although there is a pathway in that area.

Ms. Darity reiterated the importance of ensuring that the project is not forgotten.

Mr. Lytle turned to Mr. Daniel, asking for clarification if the pathway would pose an issue, suggesting it could be removed if necessary.

Mr. Daniel acknowledged that although it would involve money spent, the pathway could indeed be removed.

Mayor Copelof emphasized the significant cost involved, mentioning that just the engineering design drawings for the shelter and bathroom alone cost $15,000. She highlighted the financial constraints, indicating that there aren't sufficient funds for both the design work and construction.

## I. Set Date for Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, April 18, 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 6:40 PM.

X Pamela Holder

Pamela Holder
Co-Chair

Minutes Approved: May 16, 2024

X

Alex Shepherd,
Assistant to the City Manager