MINUTES

Rosenwald Community Advisory Board

Tuesday, August 27, 2024 - 6:00 PM
Mary C. Jenkins Community & Cultural Center

Members Present:	Pamela Holder, Co-Chair, Council Member (left at 6:15 pm) 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
Members Absent:	Randy Lytle, Co-Chair Rebecca Wynn, Citizen Member
Staff Present:	Wilson Hooper, City Manager Tyree Griffin, Community Center Director Denise Hodsdon, City Clerk

A. Welcome & Call to Order

Co-Chair Pamela Holder welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

B. Invocation

Mr. Foster offered an invocation.

C. Certification of Quorum

Quorum was certified by City Clerk Denise Hodsdon. Ms. Holder noted that she had another meeting that she had to attend and asked Mr. Daniel to chair the meeting after she leaves.

D. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Mr. Foster, seconded by Ms. Threlkel to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

E. Approval of Minutes from May 16, 2024.

Motion by Mr. Foster, seconded by Ms. Jones to approve the minutes of the May 16, 2024 meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

F. Juneteenth Celebration Debrief

Mr. Griffin reviewed the results of the Juneteenth Celebration survey. He noted that there was lot of good feedback in terms of how people felt about it. He said the biggest takeaway was the community atmosphere and we tip our hats to the City of Brevard and the Mary C. Jenkins Board who worked together to put on a very successful event, and there was a lot of collaboration in the community. He said he will use the suggestions for improving the festival as an opportunity to enhance it for next year. He noted that the layout will continue to be the same, we will continue to have and perhaps expand music groups, and he hopes to bring in more vendors and more volunteers. Mr. Foster added that one thing we learned is that we need to better outline what we want the volunteers to do and how soon we need them prior to the start of the event. Mr. Griffin mentioned that closing off Mills Avenue was a big help, especially with events happening at both MCJCCC and Silversteen Park.

G. Accomplishing Advisory Board's Mission/Vision

Mr. Hooper explained that he would like to have a discussion about how the City can help to accomplish the vision and mission statements adopted by this committee last year:

- Vision Statement: Unifying the voices of the Rosenwald Community with local leaders
- Mission Statement: To provide a conduit through which the voices and concerns of the Rosenwald Community are transmitted to local officials, and to be a sounding board for public officials on matters that impact Rosenwald

He noted that we have had dedicated public meetings here on the Master Plan and on architectural standards, we had a Council meeting here last week, the Mayor does Meet the Mayor meetings here, and a couple of the projects we did around the neighborhood stemmed from feedback we received in these meetings, including the additional creek rehab, the sidewalk, and the storm drains that we have fixed in this area. All that came out of this body, but I'm thinking about more than just individual acts of constituent response. I'm thinking about an engagement forum of some sort that really helps accomplish what is stated in the vision and mission statements; something that is repeatable and we could do regularly that covers themes of interest to the folks who live here, and something that is formatted in a way that builds trust. I know that some of our engagement sessions have not been so successful at that, so I would like to hear feedback from you all on what we can do to live up to the vision and mission identified here.

During discussion, the following key elements were identified:

- Need to build trust and make people feel like they have a voice that is heard and they can trust what we say. Maybe we can't give them everything they want, but let them know that we are here to hear them and want to try to do something about it.

- Gentrification and the need to protect properties and preserve the community's history

- City-led public input sessions have not been successful because people were venting and expressing frustrations
    - Conduit works both ways and Staff feels that when they hold public meetings they are getting blamed for things that aren't their fault, i.e. the City has a legal responsibility to approve by-right uses of a property
    - Challenge of City being powerless to solve some of the problems because of legal limitations; expectations and reality are different sometimes

Suggested ways the City could help accomplish the committee's vision and mission include:

- Consider quarterly collaborative community engagement sessions to give/receive information and work together toward solutions
- Preview matters that will have an impact on the Rosenwald Community with the Advisory Board prior to bringing to public input sessions in order to plan meetings more constructively and get a sense of the needs of the people that are going to be there
- Review what other communities have done regarding gentrification and consider an analysis and creation of a map of at-risk properties that need to be protected
- Encourage community members to attend City Council meetings

There was consensus to continue discussion and consider any new ideas at an upcoming meeting.

H. Set Date for Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, September 19, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. at the Mary C. Jenkins Community & Cultural Center.

I. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

X Pamela Holder

Pamela Holder
Co-Chair

Minutes Approved: October 17, 2024

X Denise Hodsdon

Denise Hodsdon
City Clerk