

Shaker Square Alliance

Thursday, April 1st, 2021

Online via Zoom

Convener: Julie Donaldson

News/Updates

Councilperson Blaine A Griffin, Ward 6

- Shaker Square
 - Working with receiver to find a responsible owner for the Square
 - Ed Rybka and his team are looking at code violations in the commercial properties
 - Some violations were found, but no update on if inspections have been finished
- Street repair
 - Larchmere and Mayfield are in line this summer to receive funds for bump outs to mitigate traffic issues and accidents
 - Will share drawings when they are available
 - Data showed increased accidents with traffic lights since people tried to speed through them, (hence the decision to pursue bump outs)
- 121 is scheduled to open in June
- 1 of 5 finalists for the Woodhill Transformation grant, doing a site visit next week
- City has 541 million dollars in CARES act funding
 - Councilperson Griffin will have a community meeting soon to get recommendations for spending these funds
 - Send Councilperson Griffin an email within the next month with your ideas
 - City Council meetings on this in the next few weeks
 - Question: Who will be representing Ward 4 at these discussions?
 - Council can not just remove Ken Johnson
 - Councilperson Griffin will voice concerns for Ward 4
 - Councilperson Griffin and Lavetta currently handling Ward 4 complaints
 - Ward 4 community members are welcome to join Councilperson Griffin's email blast to be notified of meetings and news
 - Phil Star: Would be good to set aside some funds in a program like a housing trust fund or revolving home loan fund that can help homeowners and stabilize housing past the 2-year timeline
- Tamara Chappell: What about the post office
 - Supposed to be remodeling
 - Widespread issues national to local with the post office
 - Relying on Sherrod Brown to work on this issue

Tania Menesse, CEO and President, Cleveland Neighborhood Progress & Bianca Butts, Neighborhood Services Coordinator, Burten Bell Carr Development Corporation

Tania Menesse, CNP

- CNP and BBC are closely partnering on this work
- CNP has a lending and real estate entity
- The receiver has been responsive to tenants and is working to address the maintenance backlog
- Focus is ensuring that Shaker Square ends up in responsible hands
 - Want to establish a long-term structure that supports the success of the Square and acknowledges the historic aspects of the square and the importance of the public use of the greenspace
 - In the long-term, the Square probably would be best as a private-public partnership
- Doing a capital needs assessment will be critical for having an accurate evaluation and price
 - Can not start until after the receiver reviews financials and opens bids for people to do this assessment
 - Need the capital needs assessment before they can work towards an offer, hopeful that these tasks can be accomplished in a six-month timeline

Bianca Butts, BBC

- Held 2 separate merchant meetings with Shaker Square merchants
 - Provided information and solicited concerns
- BBC is leading the effort to connect with the Square stakeholders and keep everyone updated
 - Will be meeting with a group of residents soon

Charles Bromley, Director, Shaker Square Alliance

- Announcement about [SOS petition](#)
 - Have over 800 signatures, please sign if you have not already!
 - We need to let the judge and receiver know that we care about the long-term stewardship and investment in this property
- Ideas for distributing the petition to more people
 - Reach out to Chip if you have connections in Onaway or Boulevard
 - Chip will call mayor about posting petition on website
 - Ask council people to blast it out to their constituents
 - Publish a letter to the editor in Scene with the link

Natalie Leek, Executive Director, Providence House

- Operate in Cleveland and the inner-ring suburbs
- Expanding into Buckeye
- Providence House supports children and families through crisis
 - Free, voluntary, emergency care for children
 - Do not take custody of children, guardians keep their children and Providence House helps them move through crisis and prevent the need for foster care

NOTES

- Provide family services and provide basic need items to families - community members can refer families to receive needed items
- Need currently is greater than capacity
- Opening new east side site will double their capacity
- Bringing 40 new jobs, recruiting locally
- New location is in the Weizer building, currently fundraising to expand the building to add new beds
- How to help
 - Refer families who need help
 - Become a donor, board member, or volunteer
 - Support the East Campus Campaign

Vaughn Johnson, Director of MBAC, Urban League of Greater Cleveland

- Minority Business Assistance Center
- Work with businesses early to mature stage to achieve scale and market success
- Able to assist businesses in 8 counties in Ohio
- Help with...
 - Certifications
 - Contracts and procurement
 - Access to capital and bonding
 - Technical assistance and counseling
- Working with MBAC is free

Community Projects

Josiah Britt, Founder, CollectivExpress: Make Your Mark Mural Project

- Make Your Mark is a mural project taking place on E. 130th St., Josiah is serving as the artistic manager for the project
 - Project grew out of the ongoing engagement on E. 130th
 - Two local professional muralists, Lauren Pearce and Brandon Graves, will be working with youth from Harvey Rice School and Holy Grove Church to design the mural
- Artists have been meeting with youth over Zoom, the outcomes of those sessions have been excellent!
- Now in Phase 2 of the project:
 - The artists are creating the design for the mural based on the youth's ideas
 - The project team is fundraising for the installation of the mural
- Mural will wrap the large first floor of the Shaker Square Towers and change the experience of being on the street
- Working in partnership with the E. 128th St. mural project group as well
- Goal is to have the mural completed by this coming September to be unveiled at the (hopeful) street festival
- Will be a permanent mural installation

Bianca Butts, Neighborhood Services Coordinator, Burten Bell Carr Development Corp.: Morelands Project

- Met 2 weeks ago to develop a strategy to address buildings on North and South Moreland
- Beginning by doing an inventory and collecting information
- Focusing on 2962 South Moreland first
- Determining what areas are most problematic and how to engage residents
- Next meeting Friday, April 9th at 1 pm

Mary Ann Kovach, President, SHAD: Updates on Planter Project and Local News

- Mural on Larchmere that was removed when 121 took over the property is being put up on 122nd St. and Larchmere shortly
- Planter project moving forward
 - Met with a property manager who works with the receiver to look at the planters
 - Putting together a budget for plants and soil
 - The receiver has a budget, looking into securing financial support from them
- Pick up the Connection at local merchants or see it online at the SHAD website!

Charles Bromley, Director, Shaker Square Alliance (R. L. Render unable to attend): Security Project

- Security coalition
 - Looking into a subsidized video doorbell campaign for the city
 - Also working on establishing a security patrol – working with UCI
 - Also interested in establishing a circular bus
 - Let us know if you want to participate in meetings regarding security
- Toni Johnson: We need to get more information from the neighbors regarding interest in doorbells and internet access

Jay Westbrook, Convener, E. 130th St. Working Group

- 13000 Buckeye Update
 - GIG6, the owners, were convicted last fall
 - The court ordered a three-years of community control sanctions
 - During this time, the owners are prohibited from selling the property without court approval and are required to bring the property up to code and keep it in good shape
 - As part of the enforcement of these terms, the owners must attend hearings at the court
 - A hearing on this building was held last week.
 - Owners are making progress on repairs
 - We will continue to monitor the progress of repairs on this building
 - Owners claim that the building will be back up to code in 12 months

Community Updates

- [Larchmere Plant Sale May 8th](#)
 - Looking for volunteers to prepare before the sale, unload the truck, organizing the plants, and staffing the sale
 - Will have a table set up for community activities and merchants
 - Send any flyers you would like to display to Susan Price
 - Taking place at 12619 Larchmere
- City Council candidate forums are being sponsored by the LWW
- The Shaker Square Alliance is looking for new VISTA for June, contact Chip if interested

Meeting Times: Changed to the first Thursday of each month at 10 am