



**MEETING MINUTES**

Metro Development Center, 444 St. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 100  
Louisville, Kentucky 40202  
September 10, 2018

PRESENT	GUESTS	ABSENT
Elmer Lucille Allen	Jess Brown, Center for Neighborhoods	Miranda Lash
Sarah Lindgren	Hannah Crepps, Center for Neighborhoods	Bob Marino
Gretchen Milliken	Hosea Mitchell, Kentucky Center for African American Heritage	Anna Tatman
Chris Reitz	Tara Brinkmoeller, Semper Tek Inc.	
Cathy Shannon	John Carman, CARMAN	
Glen Stuckel	Allison Smith, Metro Advanced Planning	
Shannon Westerman		

The meeting was called to order at 3:20 pm and Shannon Westerman, Meeting Chair, welcomed meeting attendees.

Mr. Westerman called upon Hosea Mitchell, representing the Kentucky Center for African American Heritage and the Colonel Charles Young Memorial project, also called the Freedom Flag Memorial on the handout provided. The KCAAH is located on property owned by the Louisville Metro Government and while Mr. Mitchell and the KCAAH are not proposing a public artwork component at this time, the Memorial design includes space for a sculpture to be added in a subsequent phase of the project.

Mr. Mitchell described the following details about the Memorial:

- Project recognizes Col Young, an African American veteran well-known in military history, who became the highest ranking African American soldier in all branches of service at the time of his death
- Col Young was a soldier, diplomat, ambassador, teacher and author
- Demonstrates the KCAAH mission to preserve and promote African American contributions
- Partnership with National Association for Black Veterans (NABVETS) and other organizations
- Reported by Mr. Mitchell to be the first African American memorial in Kentucky
- Estimated start date in November 2018 in time for Veterans Day
- Phase I (current phase) will include a “silhouette” of a soldier saluting the flags, with plans to replace the silhouette with a bronze sculpture in 2-3 years after additional funds are raised; an artist has not yet been selected

A discussion followed with these points raised by the Commission:

- Chris Reitz asked for clarification on the silhouette, and whether it is identified as any particular person or wearing period clothing. Mr. Mitchell responded that the figure would be generic, with an emphasis on the salute gesture, so that the viewer may see a reflection of themselves.
- Cathy Shannon emphasized caution in the project's focus on the American flag in light of recent protest from the African American community, in which the flag is considered a symbol of injustice. Ms. Shannon described the idea of honoring soldiers as positive, but noted that in some cases there has developed increasing objections to the flag itself. Mr. Mitchell responded that he understands the need for "wordsmithing", but remains confident in the Memorial's intent to honor African American contributions across all branches of the military and further described the support of several partner organizations.
- Gretchen Milliken suggested the project could be an opportunity to memorialize in a broad sense, rather than just one soldier. Mr. Mitchell responded that the KCAAH is developing programs to recognize significant African American contributions as well as a permanent exhibition inside the building. He added that the five smaller flags in the distributed renderings represent branches of the military, and would likely be displayed only for special events and not on a permanent basis. Mr. Mitchell also indicated the KCAAH is considering the display of city and state flags.
- Mr. Reitz asked about the population served by the KCAAH, and whether the project may be perceived as an extremely nationalistic gesture, and whether the project has been vetted and discussed within the community? Mr. Mitchell responded that the KCAAH serves the state of Kentucky, and that he has heard the Commission's comments. He further stated that he could not see why anyone in the community would not see the project as positive, considering that all of us most likely have a veteran in our own family. Ms. Milliken added that this question raises a good point, and that the proposed project is an opportunity to hear all voices and to create a memorial that is as respectful as possible.

Jess Brown and Hannah Crepps were present on behalf of the Center for Neighborhoods. Ms. Brown gave a brief presentation to review the forthcoming Southside Neighborhood public art project. Her updates included two artists, Elmer Lopez and Jennifer Brown, as finalists for the project. Ms. Brown described the Center for Neighborhoods community engagement methods, including partnership with the neighborhood association, artist-selection committee, and canvassing the neighborhood with survey questions. The Commission members thanked Ms. Brown for the update, and did not have any further questions or recommendations at this time for the project.

Allison Smith, Community Engagement Specialist in the Office of Advanced Planning, was present to describe Louisville Metro Government's work with 100 Resilient Cities (<http://www.100resilientcities.org/>). Ms. Smith invited Commissioners to participate in the upcoming community meetings (info included on the agenda).

Mr. Westerman asked Commissioners to review the July meeting minutes in the meeting packet. Mr. Reitz corrected an error in the minutes; he should be indicated as "absent". Councilman Glen Stuckel made a motion to accept the minutes, with the correction indicated. Elmer Lucille Allen seconded the motion, and the motion was approved with a unanimous vote.

Sarah Lindgren provided brief updates for ongoing projects, and distributed a copy of the press release for the Mayor's announcement stating his intention to move the John Castleman and George Prentice monuments. Mr. Westerman thanked Ms. Shannon and Mr. Reitz for their representation of the Commission and for their time and effort toward the Advisory Committee meetings and report.

Sarah Lindgren showed examples of public art signage and plaques from other cities, and asked for the Commission's input on developing a standard format for signage. Input from the Commission included the following:

- Signage should be simple and consistent, so that it will be recognizable
- Content should be similar to a museum label, with a clean design and "tombstone" information
- Signage should be easy to read, and not confusing or having too many words
- Signage should have a city mark
- Consider the possibility of a QR code
- Consider adding content in braille

At the conclusion of the meeting, Commissioners revisited the Colonel Young Memorial renderings and reiterated concerns about whether there had been substantial community engagement, the connection of the KCAAH and military heritage, its perception in this divisive moment in our country, and whether the message is consistent with community values. Commissioners indicated some confusion over the project name; Mr. Mitchell referred to the Colonel Young Memorial while the distributed renderings were labeled "Freedom Flag Memorial". Commissioners indicated the name referencing Colonel Young is important to the perception of the project. Commissioners indicated that there should be more community engagement in Phase II of the project, when a sculpture is added to the Memorial site.

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 pm.



**We believe...**

- **Public art is vital to building a dynamic and equitable city for everyone**
- **Public art encourages dialogue across economic, social, racial, political, historic and religious differences**
- **Public art inspires and provokes the viewer**
- **Public art is necessary in all communities**