**Post 114/MC Coalition Meeting**

**July 6, 2020**

**Minutes**

**Attendance:** Gwen Brown, BHSB;Jon Constable, Seawall; Shannon Conway, Mayor’s Office of Neighborhoods; Chad Ellis, UMB Police; Neal Friedlander, Councilman Costello’s Office; Kevin Hayes, Councilman Costello’s Office; Stacy Holmes, UMB Parking; Arish Narayen, BHSB; Carolyn James-Okpo, Seton Hill Association; JR Jones, UMB Police; William Marcus, DPOB; Arish Narayen, BHSB; Marianne Navarro, Mayor’s Office; Larry Nunley, DPW; Bruce Panczner, BEAM, MCCDC, Paradise Management; Chantel Quarles, HCD Code Enforcement; Perry Standfield, DPOB; Mike Watson, MCMA, Everyman Theatre; Kyree West, BDC; Ann Winder, MCCDC, MCMA, The Place Lounge;

**Updates:**

1. **Howard Street Tree Wells** – Kristen Mitchell (KM) reported that she spoke with Marva Williams and Nikia Mack from Department of Transportation (DOT). They are working to identify the entity responsible for regular maintenance (weeds, trash) and repairs to the Howard Street tree wells. The City’s Forestry and Footways departments said that they did not install the tree wells and are not responsible. However, Forestry is going to fill the tree wells with soil and mulch, so they are level with the sidewalk. KM saw a contractor working on the tree wells on July 2. Perry Standfield (PS) noted that DPOB removed piles of bricks from Howard Street recently.
2. **Public Realm Meeting** – KM is working with Marianne Navarro (MN) to schedule a meeting with City leaders to discuss public realm improvements the week of July 27.
3. **Community Policing Discussion** – Bill Marcus (BM) and Bruce Panczner (BP) are convening a group to discuss community policing, situational opportunity theory, and sociological options to addressing criminal activity in Market Center. The purpose of the meeting is to learn about the impact and status of sociological programs such as LEAD, and better define/understand BPD’s efforts in Market Center. UMBPD Chief Ellis agreed to participate. Gwen Brown (GB) noted that BHSB is hosting a meeting with the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice – she will share information with the group.
4. **Environment & Safety Workgroup** – Pickett Slater Harrington (PSH) said that the Transform Lexington Market Environment and Safety Workgroup will reconvene on July 29.
5. **Transform Lexington Market** – Jon Constable (JC) said that Seawall expects to begin the tenant recruitment process in August.
6. **LEAD** – Arish Narayen (AN) said that LEAD is still active, though referrals have slowed. LEAD case workers are employed by BCRI (Baltimore Crisis Response, Inc.); BHSB (Behavioral Health Systems Baltimore) oversees the program. Currently, case workers work remotely, which impacts where and how they interact with participants. A subcommittee of the Consent Decree monitoring team must approve expansion of LEAD. Lack of financial resources is an issue.

**Work Plan**:

KM explained that the Post 114/MC Work Plan (sent to participants prior to the meeting and reviewed at the meeting) is designed to keep MCMA and MCCDC on track, and to be clear about our requests of other entities. Many businesses, nonprofits, institutions, and others are interested in improving the cleanliness, appearance, and safety of Market Center – this is our attempt to capture what we have heard through conversations and meetings. Much of the material was pulled from Seawall’s community outreach and Environment & Safety Workgroup – MCMA just added details.

1. Guiding Principles – Seawall developed Guiding Principles 1-5, which reflect what they heard from their community outreach about both what needs to happen near Lexington Market, as well as how to do the work. MCMA added Principle 6: Diversity and Inclusion.
2. Boundaries – MCMA will continue to work throughout Market Center, but the Post 114/MC Coalition has identified a micro-zone in which to focus safe and clean efforts (roughly bound by Paca, Saratoga, Howard, and Baltimore Streets). The zone will expand as we see evidence of progress.
3. Appearance & Cleanliness – MCMA, Southern Management, Everyman, and Paradise Management committed to regular pressure washing; KM asked other entities to make similar commitments. PS agreed on behalf of DPOB and will also speak with Aaron Faulkner about Lexington Market’s pressure washing capabilities.
4. Surrounding Business & Retail – Seawall is working with Innovation Works and Baltimore Corps to create a support network to help Lexington Market vendors with various aspects of starting and running a business; It may be possible to help other small businesses in the community with this same network. In response to Carolyn James-Okpo’s (CJO) question, KM stated that the façade improvement grants require a match – the businesses listed on the workplan are those that have expressed interest.
5. Physical Changes –
   1. Lighting walk through – KM asked who would like to take a walking tour of Market Center to identify needed lighting improvements. Carolyn James-Okpo, Neal Friedlander, and Kevin Hayes agreed to participate.
   2. Bus stops and routes – KM asked who would like to be involved in a discussion about locations of bus stops and routes. Bruce Panczner, Ann Winder, Mike Watson, Pickett Slater-Harrington are interested. Stacy Holmes will check at UMB.
   3. Design for Distancing – Design for Distancing aims to reconfigure outdoor space to enable businesses to open and operate safely while physical distancing is still necessary. KM is working with Emily Breiter from Bromo Arts on this initiative for Market Center. PS noted that he and Bill Marcus talked with Emily earlier in the day and stressed the need to keep the blueprint for interventions small and discrete (to enable easier maintenance and oversight).
6. Opioid Dealing & Addiction – KM noted that she is least comfortable with this section of the work plan because she does not understand the subject as well as the others. BP asked why the section does not address marijuana. PSH agreed to consider it.
   1. Expansion of UMB Footprint – The UMB Police footprint includes Eutaw Street, but they focus on Paca and leave Eutaw to the Baltimore Police Department and MTA police. When asked why, Corporal JR Jones (JJ) said that he would speak with his command. CJO questioned the desirability of expanding the footprint of UMB police. Some members of the public are uncomfortable with private police forces because they are less accountable. (Someone asked if UMBPD is subject to the Consent Decree; they are not.)
7. New Business/Updates
   1. Ann Winder (AW) asked what MCMA can do to assist in these efforts. PS recommends MCMA bring more volunteers together. He envisions monthly, downtown-wide cleaning events. KM noted that she is interested in doing more regular cleaning activities that are less of a production than last year’s Trash Bash. KM, AW, and PS will follow up.
   2. Neal Friedlander (NF) noted that this year’s budget is grim, making it more difficult to access city services and resources. He supports the micro-zone concept.
   3. Gwen Brown (GB) said that she thinks the BPD’s Neighborhood Coordination Officers have returned to patrol.
   4. Kyree West (KW) said that he does not have an update on the RFP for the properties formerly known as the Superblock. BDC received 800+ applications for small business grants.
   5. Larry Nunley (LN) said that DPW is “back online.” Reisterstown Road and Quarantine Road landfills are open. Household Hazardous Waste Collection will take place on July 10 & 11.
   6. Chantel Quarles (CQ) said that HCD Code Enforcements has returned to full operations, though inspectors are staggering days in and out of the office.

Next meeting: August 3, 10-12.