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MEETING MINUTES

Date: 08-16-07

Time: 10:00AM

Location: Booker T. Washington Community Center

Project Name: I-16/I-75 Interchange Improvement Project

Subject: Pleasant Hill Historic District – SHPO Proposed Mitigation

Attendees:

See Attached Sign-in Sheet

Prepared By: Linda Cooks

- Peter Givens of Pleasant Hill Neighborhood Involvement Group (PHNIG) opened the meeting and began introductions of those in attendance.
- Brad Hale of Moreland Altobelli Associates, Inc. (MAAI) discussed the purpose of the meeting.
- Todd Hill of MAAI gave a brief description of the overall NEPA environmental process and presented mitigation already discussed between Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) and the Pleasant Hill neighborhood.
- Dr. Ray Luce of Historic Preservation Division of the Department of Natural Resources (HPD) described the Section 106 process and described several additional proposed mitigation measures suggested by the SHPO:
 1. Preserve the Little Richard House – perhaps locate a sponsor such as the Music Hall of Fame or Mercer University. Use as a “musician-in-residence” facility. Should be moved within the neighborhood or if that is not possible, perhaps it can be moved to the Music Hall of Fame.
 2. Create a local development zone or enterprise development area that would provide guidance/money/tax incentives for the local residences for preservation/rehabilitation of existing homes within the neighborhood. An example of this type of project would be the Martin Luther King, Jr. Historic District in Atlanta.
 3. Work the existing street grid of Middle Street into the linear park. Use signage to describe what the neighborhood design in that area was before the project.

Richard Cloues of HPD added that there is little funding available for such projects; grants for non-profits and cities are limited but there are county and state tax incentives.

- Peter Givens stated that he wanted more time to discuss these mitigation measures with SHPO.
- Glenn Bowman of GDOT stated that though the ideas presented by the SHPO are good ideas, we need to keep the project on schedule for right-of-way authorization in FY 2008.
- Peter Givens stated that in past actions, the neighborhood has been quick with responding and following through on their end to keep the process moving forward. Feels that they need to talk about the specifics of the mitigation suggestions with SHPO.
- Glenn Bowman asked Katy Allen of Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) if any of the measures discussed at the meeting thus far would be a show stopper to the project money wise.
- Katy Allen stated no, that the ideas presented seemed reasonable. She was concerned, however with who would be responsible for the specifics of these ideas. FHWA must be certain that the mitigation measures are do-able and able to be tracked for completion. Who will maintain the city park? Who will maintain the roads?
- Peter Givens stated that the PHNIG is already there. That the ideas presented by the SHPO have already been discussed within the PHNIG and that there are a lot of people involved that are outside of this circle.
- Glenn Bowman – Next Steps:
 - PHNIG and the SHPO will meet to discuss the mitigation measures.
 - PHNIG will get back to GDOT regarding what additional mitigation measures discussed with the SHPO could be reasonably included within the current mitigation plan.
- A comment was made to be sure to look at how the project will affect the whole neighborhood, not just the project area within the neighborhood.
- Marie Jones of Macon Parks and Recreation – The proposed linear park will be maintained by the city. Will the city have input in the plant material selected for the linear park? Neighborhood would also have input regarding which landscape materials are to be used.
- Glenn Bowman asked Katy if we need specific details on the type of plants to be used or can it be noted as an environmental commitment within the NEPA document.

- Katy Allen stated a landscape architect should coordinate with the planning and design representatives within the Macon City Parks Department including input from Maintenance and include the neighborhood's contribution of ideas. Need to be detailed about the cost.
- Peter Givens stated that we (PHNIG) can price out each house and how much it will cost to rehabilitate each house.
- Glenn Bowman stated that as much detail regarding cost needs to be obtained.
- Katy Allen – FHWA is not usually involved with enterprise zoning. This would be outside the scope of this project.
- Peter Givens explained that the construction of the interstate (mid-60's) split the neighborhood in half and reduced the size of the Linwood Cemetery by a third. The existing Walnut Street paved over the graves of two Black women from the Pleasant Hill neighborhood who started the first black college in Macon. Impact was felt all the way to Payne City and downtown Macon.
- Katy Allen – Details and terms of the newly proposed mitigation needs as much substance as possible before the hearing. Can state in the document that this is where we are in the process at this time.
- Peter Givens – he has the details of who owns individual impacted properties, who wants to sell their property, and who wants to keep their property.
- Carol Perry - Details regarding the relocation of eligible houses needs to be coordinated with right-of-way representatives.

Pleasant Hill Mitigation Meeting
 Booker T. Washington Community Center
 August 16, 2007

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