

# Mayor's St. Paul's Advisory Committee

## Meeting Minutes

**Date of Meeting:** July 16, 2019

**Minutes Prepared By:** Megan Erwin, Senior Budget and Policy Analyst, City of Norfolk

**1. Purpose of Meeting:** To receive an update from Urban Strategies, Inc and to introduce the committee to the HUD team

### 2. Attendance at Meeting

Councilman Riddick – not present	Councilwoman Williams-Graves – present	Dr. Glenn Porter – not present	Dr. Robert G. Murray – not present
Mr. Don Musacchio – not present	Mr. Brodie Parker – not present	Mr. Lavonne Pledger – not present	Ms. Deirdre Love – present
Rev. James P. Curran - present	Dr. Ruth Jones Nichols – present	Rev. Dr. Kirk T. Houston, Sr. – present	Tara Saunders – present
Shamika Kirby – present	Mr. Earl P. Fraley, Jr. – not present	Michelle Cook – not present	Dr. Byrdsong – not present
Caz Ferguson – not present	Mr. William Harrell - present	Dr. LeGrand – present	Alphonso Albert – present

### 3. Agenda

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| <b>I. Welcome</b>   | <b>6:00</b> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Co-Chair Angelia Williams Graves</i></li><li>• <i>Co-Chair Paul Riddick</i></li></ul>  |             |
| <b>II. Overview of Advisory Committee</b>   | <b>6:05</b> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Co-Chair Angelia Williams Graves</i></li></ul>   |             |
| <b>III. Urban Strategies, Inc. Data Walk</b>  | <b>6:15</b> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Kristie Sutler, USI</i><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>i. Review of the data from assessments and the last meeting</i></li><li><i>ii. Discussion of factors causing the trends seen in the data</i></li></ul></li></ul> |             |

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iii. *Alignment around results (based on what was identified at last meeting of what people wanted the neighborhood to be in five years)*

iv. *Proposed Strategies to meet the identified goals*

#### IV. HUD Remarks 7:00

- *Mindy Turbov, HUD*
  - i. *CNI Grant – What to expect over the next five years*
  - ii. *Q & A*

#### V. Next Steps/Announcements/Closing Remarks 7:45

- *Co-Chair Angelia Williams Graves*
- *Co-Chair Paul Riddick*

### 4. Meeting Notes, Decisions, Issues

#### I. Welcome 6:00

- *Co-Chair Angelia Williams Graves*
- *Co-Chair Paul Riddick*
- Councilwoman Graves welcomed everyone to the meeting and opened in prayer. She informed the committee that some people are not able to attend due to attending a memorial for Pernel “Sweet Pea” Whitaker.
- Ms. Hamm-Lee informed the committee that while HUD will be introduced, they are unable to make comments or answer questions at the meeting this evening.

#### II. Overview of Advisory Committee 6:05

- *Co-Chair Angelia Williams Graves*
- Each of the members of the advisory committee introduced themselves.

#### III. Urban Strategies, Inc. Data Walk 6:15

- *Kristie Sutler, USI*
- Esther Shin from Urban Strategies reminded the committee of USI’s commitments to equity, diversity, and hiring locally. She informed the committee that USI has begun the hiring process and has also begun to connect with residents at Tidewater Gardens. She explained the discussion that occurred during the exercise at last month’s meeting, at which two questions were posed related to what success looks like.

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To kick off the discussion, the committee was asked to answer the following questions: "Name one thing that excites you the most about this transformation plan" and "Name one thing that concerns you the most about this transportation plan"

- Dr. Harrell stated that he is excited that we received the grant funding and is concerned that we improve from the past.
- Dr. Murray stated that he is excited about providing more comfortable living conditions for people, and concerned that the residents' voice will not be heard as strongly once relocated and disbursed.
- Ms. Kirby stated that she is excited about redevelopment and concerned about enough available housing for residents.
- Dr. Legrand stated that she is excited for the transformation to begin and come to fruition, and concerned about the children who are displaced.
- Ms. Love stated that she is excited about the opportunity to reduce poverty, and concerned about the future of young people and impact of displacement - and that the communities' complexion may change completely.
- Dr. Jones Nichols stated that she is excited about the forward movement and concerned about potential gentrification - that the current residents will not be overwhelmingly there at the end of the day.
- Reverend Houston stated that he is excited to improve quality of life for residents and concerned about the execution and delivery of services in the People First process.
- Councilwoman Graves stated that she is excited about being part of this legacy, and concerned about how we do it – that we get it as right as we can, and ensure that we are inclusive of the residents and rest of the city.
- Finally, USI staff provided a synthesis of the committee's responses.

The members of the advisory committee and community members then participated in a 'data walk.' For this exercise, information about trends was taped to the walls and members were given a chance to walk around and read/review the data. At the end, Ms. Sutler asked the committee to consider what may be causing the trends.

- Ms. Saunders remarked that she noticed that residents were experiencing disadvantages in a lot of areas. She said she thought that the main disadvantage was going to be education, but noticed many barriers to employment: a third of residents are disabled, and another third lack childcare, and lack transportation. She stated that in the future she wants residents to have access to all of those things in the neighborhood.
- Ms. Love said that she was impacted by the number of children who are impacted. She said she kept seeing the faces of the children as she looked at the data. She said that if you are educated, and your parent is, but are living in a place where that isn't enough – because you can't get what you need or go where you need to go – it seemingly outweighs access to

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education. She stated that many people believe that education can lift you out of poverty, but there are so many other factors.

- Councilwoman Graves discussed how the lack of exposure over time can influence children, what they value, and what they believe they can do. She mentioned how in the past parents might push their children to value education because there was that theory that education could solve everything, but that over time people lose hope – and it is hard to infuse hope into somebody if you don't have it yourself.
- Ms. Sutler synthesized the comments, stating that it seems the comments are based on compounded impact.
- Ms. Sutler provided a presentation based on the information that was gathered at last month's meeting. That presentation is attached.
- Reverend Houston asked what Ms. Sutler meant by 'lack of data around youth and adult opportunities for connection.' She responded that it is important to address trauma – and although most people talk about therapy, another way that you can work with people is just creating opportunities for safety and for them to excel, achieve, and connect.
- Ms. Love asked if USI looked into previous incarceration rates. Ms. Sutler responded that although they currently don't have data on it, they will be working on getting that information through the needs assessment.
- Ms. Saunders stated that she felt that strategy three should be priority one. Ms. Sutler responded that they attempt to work on all strategies simultaneously, but that the top priority should be gathering information from residents.
- Mr. Harrell stated that on the recruit pipeline, he would like HRT to be included as they have been working with the City of Norfolk and the Housing Authority on employment opportunities in transportation. He also mentioned that they are currently reviewing how they provide transit. Ms. Sutler thanked him and stated that they are taking down notes from this meeting.
- Father Curran stated that they currently work with Tidewater Park elementary school, and that one of the issues is that they experience a 25 percent turnover rate every year. Ms. Sutler thanked him for his comment and noted that they will be engaging the schools to get their perspective as well.

Ms. Sutler asked the advisory committee members to provide a 'thumbs up vote' on the proposed results statement: "St. Paul will be a healthy, safe, inclusive community with equitable opportunities for all." She stated that this statement would represent what we as a group are striving for.

- Ms. Love said that she can't tell from the statement whether it is inclusive of the current residents who will relocate.
- Ms. Saunders said she would add the word 'vibrant' or something that would imply an improved quality of life.

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- Councilwoman Graves agreed with that statement, saying that the word 'vibrant' makes her think of bright colors, happy, and 'thriving.' She also agreed with Ms. Love's statement that we want to be sure to include all residents, regardless if they relocate.
- Ms. Love said she wants to be sure the current residents are the first priority.
- Father Curran stated that he agrees, and he is also concerned with the term 'inclusive' because it sounds like it will be going from a historically black community to a white neighborhood that 'includes' them. He said that he might prefer the word 'diverse.'
- Councilwoman Graves asked if this statement is supposed to capture the results, what the community will be at the end, so we have to take into consideration that some people will come back, but there will be different people. She said that she heard today that she wouldn't characterize this as gentrification, because there will be mixed income levels for forty years. She said that at least 60 percent of the new community, give or take ten percent, will be less than 80% of AMI.
- Mr. Kownack said that all residents of Tidewater Gardens who are in good standing will have a place to come back. He said that we know that not all residents will choose to come back, but they will all have the opportunity. He said that one of the goals is that they will feel welcome to come back. He stated that there will be less than 50 percent of the current residents who come back, just because things happen and people move, and there is no project in the country who has reached 50 percent. But that is different than stating that everyone who chooses to come back and is in good standing has an opportunity to come back. He said that there will be 490 opportunities to come back.
- Father Curran stated that he wants to make sure that there are enough spaces for all 618 families if we are pledging that everyone who wants to return can return.
- A representative from Brinshore noted that NRHA is getting feedback from residents, and will get a good estimate from residents about what they want, and as the project moves forward, we will adjust. He said that as we move forward more people may want to come back, but he believes it is unreasonable to say that the development at the end of the day there would be 100% replacement housing.
- Mr. Kownack said that the pledge has always been, that if residents want to come back and are lease-eligible, they can come back, even if it is 618 families.
- Ms. Sutler proposed that the group revisit the results statement at a future meeting.
- Councilwoman Graves made the point that we are making clear that this is about providing people choices. She said that there are people who will move out into suburbia and find community there.
- Ms. Kirby said that they are surveying residents daily about whether residents want to come back. She said it is the residents who are saying they don't want to come back.
- Councilwoman Graves said one of the outcomes of being successful is not just giving someone a brand new place to live, but helping them to have a life that is vibrant and that

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they thrive in, no matter where they are. If they choose to come back, great. But if not, they are doing well no matter where they are.

- Ms. Shin closed out the USI portion of the meeting, reminded the group that this results statement is the 'north star' – what we are seeking to achieve, but not a promise. She then also introduced other members of the USI team and stated that they will return next month.

#### IV. HUD Remarks

7:00

- *Mindy Turbov, HUD*
- Ms. Turbov introduced the members of the HUD team.

#### V. Next Steps/Announcements/Closing Remarks

7:45

- Councilwoman Graves provided a brief overview of the HUD visit today. She said they started the day at the Port Authority giving a brief overview of the city. She said that it was made clear at the meeting that at the end of the day this is about people. She said that they took a bus tour of the St. Paul's community and build sites, went to the Slover Library to have lunch, and then had two presentations. The first one was on neighborhoods – including the neighborhoods that will be impacted by relocations, and the second was on housing – including a schedule and what we needed for grandfamily housing, senior housing, etc., and the Police Chief presented. She stated that it is important that we get this right, and learn from the past, from those projects that didn't go right. She thanked those who helped to put everything together, and that they would be back at it tomorrow. She said that she also appreciated that Ms. Turbov made clear that she didn't want a 'dog and pony' show, but wanted meaningful conversations.
- Ms. Hamm-Lee stated that the next meeting will include the community, and that the meeting time might be adjusted. She also reminded committee members to indicate if they are interested in participating in the housing subcommittee.
- Councilwoman Graves said that last week they had their first Bank-On graduation, and had 15 graduates. She said that that is one of the highest numbers of graduates. She said that there were stories from residents about how they were able to save money, improve their credit score and had a better understanding of credit and the importance of saving. She expressed her appreciation to the staff.
- Reverend Houston closed in prayer.