



Ridge Street Priority Neighborhood Taskforce Minutes

Wednesday, November 18th, 2020

4-5PM

Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

AGENDA

1. Introductions/Housekeeping/Minutes

Meeting begins 4:02PM

Taskforce Roll Call:

NAME	POSITION	ATTENDANCE
CHRIS MEYER	Business Owner	Yes
KATHY JOHNSON HARRIS	Property Owner	Yes
KETTIE HOLLAND RUPNIK	Resident	Yes
KEM LEA SPAULDING	Ridge CDBG Representative	Yes
PAT LLOYD	Resident	Yes
AUDREY OLIVER	Resident	Yes
TANEIA DOWELL	Planning Commission	Absent

Kathy Johnson Harris (KJH) moves to accept the Minutes. PL seconds.

2. Taskforce Priorities and Project Ideas

Pat Lloyd (PL) asked about any leftover funds from the Belmont Priority Neighborhood.

Erin Atak (EA) notes that all Belmont Priority Neighborhood CDBG funds were allocated to the CDBG funds.

Kem Lea Spaulding (KLS) asks about the Ridge Street walking tour.

PL reports that the tour was informative. The Taskforce noted that there were speeding/traffic issues, sidewalk issues, and bus shelter issues.

Staff Contact:

Erin Atak, Grants Coordinator (atake@charlottesville.gov), (434) 970-3093

CM denoted that it was great to hear about Taneaia's experience growing up on Ridge Street.

EA notes that Taskforce members during the Ridge Street Walkthrough noted the need for reflectors, and that one member of the Ridge Street neighborhood felt that Sidewalks were a big strength of the neighborhood.

KJH asks how much of 5th street would VDOT cover in expenses.

Brennen Duncan (BD), City Traffic Engineer, states that VDOT does not own or maintain any of the City Streets. The City can apply for state funding to cover the costs for improvements, but the streets are under City jurisdiction.

BD states that City Council or another local funding source would need to allocate funds to make rapid improvements on 5th street. Using CDBG dollars, intersection lighting would be within budget and could be one funding source that could help make rapid improvements on 5th street.

BD explains safety concerns of flashing crosswalk on Belmont Bridge.

Taskforce discussion revolves around available City funding and options for how City funding can be used to make infrastructure improvements.

CM asks about the cost of bus shelter and bus benches. BD gives an estimate of \$10,000.

KJH states the importance of affordable housing and workforce development as a priority within the City. Bus benches and shelter should be funded through the City.

EA will request getting a representative from transit to join the next Ridge Street Taskforce meeting.

PL states the highest ranking survey results: Traffic calming, speeding.

BD begins discussion on Traffic calming options on Ridge Street. One option would be to remove parking on one side of Ridge Street and add full bump out. Easy measures include flashing speed sign, alternating parking on the street, .

Taskforce discusses traffic calming and parking on Ridge Street.

PL mentions Brookwood Dr as high speeding.

KJH states that many cars speed on Raymond Rd and the Taskforce should look at adding a Sidewalk in this street.

BD explains the Neighborhood Development Services Sidewalk fund.

Staff Contact:

Erin Atak, Grants Coordinator (atake@charlottesville.gov), (434) 970-3093

Kettie Rupnik (KR) asks about is there is a map available that show where there are gaps in sidewalks within the Ridge Street Sidewalk.

EA will produce the map with GIS analysts.

KLS asks about sidewalk study and whether there is high usage.

BD states this data would be skewed. How would one use a sidewalk if it is not there?

KR brings up other neighborhood concerns of amenities, safety, lighting, trash, and housing concerns.

Taskforce begins discussion on housing. Most homes of interest are privately owned.

KJH states some of the homeowners have been prominent members of the Ridge Street community. CDBG funds could be used for housing rehabilitation.

Taskforce discusses possible housing rehabilitation program with CDBG dollars.

KR asks EA about other City funds that could be used to address Taskforce concerns.

PL states that the Taskforce should also look at selecting a project that will benefit the most residents.

Taskforce begins to discuss the costs of sidewalks, bus stops, and housing. In particular, empty sidewalks or patches of sidewalks.

Audrey Oliver (AO) adds the importance of handicap accessibility for sidewalks. AO asks whether homeowners are paying taxes and see whether it is possible to have a discussion with the homeowners about available funding.

BD: States that contacting the property owners when looking at potential bus shelter locations will be beneficial because the City will most likely need to look into purchasing right of way.

CM states whether it would be possible to push the sidewalk into the street.

BD states this would be an option that could help with traffic calming.

Taskforce homework: Identify where sidewalks should be put in the neighborhood, and identify where bus shelters should be placed.

3. Other Business

None

Staff Contact:

Erin Atak, Grants Coordinator (atake@charlottesville.gov), (434) 970-3093

4. Public Comment

Mr. Kenneth Martin: Can any of this money go towards murders on south first street or implement recommendations from the City's CPTED study?

EA states if the Taskforce wanted to look into prioritizing this we could add this to the survey results.

Staff Contact:

Erin Atak, Grants Coordinator (atake@charlottesville.gov), (434) 970-3093