



**~ Agenda ~**

---

Monday, September 11<sup>th</sup> 2023

5:00 PM

BECK Cultural Center

---

**ORDER OF BUSINESS**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Fitzgerald-Baker called the meeting to order at 5:14 p.m.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Olds, Best, McKenzie, Fitzgerald-Baker, Hardin, Lyons, Taylor, Olum, Porter

Fitzgerald-Baker confirmed that a quorum was present.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Monday, May 8<sup>th</sup> 2023

Best motioned for approval of the minutes; Porter seconded. Motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**4. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EXTRAORDINARY MATTERS**

Fitzgerald-Baker called for announcements and extraordinary matters. She thanked the Task Force for its support of the Beck Center.

**5. STAFF REPORT**

Fitzgerald-Baker called on Tiffani Toombs first. Toombs said that the Task Force is on track with the State of Black Knoxville report. She sent the information the City has, and this will be added to the report. She will share updates with the Task Force.

Davidson noted that KCDC has inquired about the Reconnecting Communities grant, and they have requested a letter of support. The City will be doing this, and there will be a presentation on this later in the meeting.

Davidson also thanked those who were able to attend the 8/25 Strategic Session. She noted that the work on the strategic framework is ongoing. She noted that we

are getting the notes together, and those will be available in the future. Fitzgerald-Baker also thanked those who attended for their work at the session.

## **6. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Fitzgerald-Baker stated that a schedule will be issued for the Committees to meet quarterly to make these meetings as helpful as possible.

## **7. PROPOSED RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **a. KCDC Reconnecting Communities Grant Presentation**

Marissa Moazen from KCDC presented regarding changes to the grant proposal. There is a comprehensive, multi-modal connection system including walkways, greenways, pocket parks, online resources for each park, etc. They are asking for a letter of support to the Department of Transportation. She noted that the major changes are about the history piece, transportation facilities (especially those installed in the 1960s and 1980s). The grant went from 4 to 7 factors which, in part, include those related to climate change, freight traffic (which we don't have much of), and displacement of residents due to construction (none in this case). The grant minimum is \$5 million and does not have a maximum. Total cost of projects is \$80 million; \$40 million is already funded. They have asked for \$40 million, which is aspirational (however, they have noted that they are supportive of partial grants too).

Discussion: Olds, Best, Hardin, Lyons

Motion to provide letter of support: McKenzie, Best 2<sup>nd</sup>, passed on unanimous voice call vote

### **b. KUB Presentation**

Jamie Davis at KUB presented regarding the new fiber optic internet services which are live in the city of Knoxville. City Council recently funded the Affordable Connectivity Program, which gives free internet for families that qualify for aid and that have a student who attends either Austin East, Fulton, Central, or South Doyle. Mr. Davis called for assistance in getting the word out to families that may qualify for this program. Seven years is the buildout timeline, so they have five more years to go. He anticipates that the bulk will be done within the next three years.

Discussion: Lyons, Fitzgerald-Baker, Hardin, Olds

### **c. National League of Cities Reflections**

Dennis Campa from the NLC presented. First, he noted that the TF has been exploring the meaning of the suffering of the people impacted by Urban Renewal. He said that the TF has gone a long way in exploring this. It takes political courage and community will on doing this; these movements are in the minority. Second, he asked the TF to think about things they can do in the interim following the strategic planning session. This is a lifelong project. He closed by saying that we have the passion for the work and for the people in our community, so he urged the TF to put this passion into their goals.

Discussion: Fitzgerald-Baker

d. Mayor Kincannon

Fitzgerald-Baker invited Mayor Kincannon to speak. Mayor thanked those in attendance and to the TF members for their time and service. Mayor reflected on the positivity in the programs that KCDC and KUB are proposing and implementing. She noted the housing crisis and thanked the TF for its guidance on the balance between bringing progress and development, and protecting existing residents. McKenzie thanked the Mayor for her support.

**8. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT DISCUSSION**

McKenzie first asked for the TF members to introduce themselves, given the NLC conference participants in attendance.

**9. PUBLIC FORUM**

None signed up for public forum.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn by Best, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Olum, passed on unanimous voice vote.

*Next Meeting: October 9<sup>th</sup> 2023 at 5:00pm at Pellissippi State Community College- Magnolia Campus*