

## Choice Neighborhood Planning Grant

### Community Meeting Notes: 04.16.24

Commissioner Burns: People, Process, and the Plan  
Transparency and accountability

Ms. Bryant: Think big. “We want WOW!”

“We want to do better.”

“We won’t stop trying.”

- 3 Pillars/Key Components
  - Housing
    - Lake Mann
    - Lorna Doone
    - Community concern about the focus communities that were selected (Lorna Doone and Lake Mann); 3rd option (Murchison Terrace) was **not** chosen because it would’ve been too many units to be replaced—outside the reach of what this grant could accomplish
  - People
  - Neighborhood Improvement
  
- Concern about Strategic Advisory Group
  - Who’s in that group? Is the group composed of community members?
  - This group seems like it will own the process.
  - History of ‘90s charrettes and community involvement
    - Creative Village was one of the things that came out of that.
    - Black Parramore residents didn’t benefit from that; they don’t own any of that—no generational wealth being created.
  - Why are people outside of the planning boundaries not “at the table” to help increase the ideas collected and the likelihood of winning the grant?
    - Answer: Sandy, “We can get partners (contributors) from anywhere.”
    - Important to convey to the community who’s on the Strategic Advisory Group—show them who’s capable of convening and raising the ideas and funds necessary to make all of this actually happen.

- **Action:** share members of SAG and reinforce that you are looking beyond the boundaries of the focus area for ideas, input, and funding.
  - **Action:** consider sharing the list of partners and their contributions to reinforce that organizations are providing donated/discounted time and resources (UCF, etc.)
  
- Concern that contributors to the plan (residents/volunteers) are not being individually compensated
  - “Economic justice” is what I’m looking for (Jonathan)
  - The Black folks living in this neighborhood don’t own any of the developments happening in the West Lakes area, e.g., Pendana is owned by others.
  - Jonathan Blount: “I don’t want bus rides; I want ownership.”
    - **Action:** Share the grant budget (plus contributions from Lift and OHA) and reinforce that HUD funds have to be used to develop and submit the plan as the first step toward applying for the implementation grant. While the consultant is earning a fee, that amount is an investment toward being selected for the implementation grant.
    - **Action:** consider restating that the community benefits in long-term improvements, assets, services, and opportunities, and that there are short-term benefits too with the Early Action Activities. We need their input about what they want and don’t want anyone to miss the chance to be heard.
  
- Very important to **not** rename communities—strong legacy in the west Orlando communities for those who were already displaced from the Bumby area in the ‘40s
  - Vicki-Elaine Felder: “We are proud of Washington Shores. We are **not** West Lakes. We don’t want to lose the ambiance or the historical relevance.”
    - **Action:** emphasize that our goal is to create a brand for the Plan to unite the community and participating organizations. A brand creates a sense of belonging and encourages collaboration. It also helps us communicate effectively and avoid confusion with other initiatives and programs at the City, OHA, and Lift.