



Southside Steering Committee

City of Paducah | Planning Department | January 23rd, 2023

Members Present

Mike Muscarella
Susan Ybarzabal
Leslie Ballard
Rev. Charles Dunbar
Bryson Wells
Jay Staples
Kristian Prather
Connie Ragsdale
Donta Tyler

Members Absent

Sonya Thompson

Staff/Guests

Melanie Reason – Planning Dept.
Palmer Stroup – Planning Dept.
Leslie Hack - Guest

1. Planning Process: Economic Opportunity

The group discussed possible value statements for Economic Opportunity that will encompass the community's view on priorities for this area of concentration in Southside neighborhoods.

- *Southside businesses provide a hub of commerce to other neighborhoods.*
- *Southside neighborhoods can thrive equitably alongside commercial development.*
- *Southside neighborhoods support a mix of large and small businesses.*
- *Neighbors can access wealth building opportunities.*

Discussion surrounded the need for better cell phone signal in some areas, investigation into broadband infrastructure, and the development of financial literacy programs for the community. Jay and Susan planned to have a breakout session to develop this idea.

2. Vision: Business Grants

Phase One: Matching business grants to beautify commercial areas and improve structures. Dollar for dollar matching program. Minimum 1k max 5k

Roof stabilization 20k
Screening for industrial sites

Discussion surrounded the program area and the group wants to focus on qualifiers for the program, and identified targets of small businesses, women and minority owned businesses, and it was decided that a scoring rubric should be used on applications. Additional discussions included confirming the program area should be along main corridors, and that phase 2 incentives in the form of tax moratoriums could be applied to large businesses to offset the cost of screening industrial areas.

3. Discussion: Housing Programs

This discussion returned to the details of the incentive programs put forward by staff, and the group articulated that the community needed smaller grants with lower minimum investment that were more accessible than a contract for service proposed in the rehab grant program, which utilizes a community organization that has a long waitlist. The community would respond well to a smaller grant that could be utilized by the homeowner with or without their own contractor, and not be locked into using one specific company. Staff will prepare a second draft of this program to be presented in March.

4. Next Steps: Next meeting and action items

- a. The group agreed to adopting an attendance policy, outlined below.
- b. The group agreed to meet monthly, and to have committee meetings monthly or as needed.
- c. Next meeting: February 6th, 2023 at 5:30 pm at CFSB on Irvin Cobb Drive.

Southside Steering Committee Meeting Schedule: first Monday of each month, except for holidays

Proposed Attendance Policy: RSVP to each meeting, send a proxy from your organization if applicable. The group will vote to replace a member if the following conditions are met:

- 3 missed meetings without notice
- 6 missed meetings overall

2023 Meetings

January 9th, 23rd
February 6th
March 6th
April 10th (Spring Break)
May 1st
June 5th
July 10th (Holiday)
August 14th (8th of Aug)
September 11th
October 9th
November 6th
December 4th