

Attachment 4

Harkins, Sandra

From: GNDC [gndc@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Friday, September 09, 2011 4:33 PM
To: Lisa Byrd; Harkins, Sandra; Tom Hatch; clifford gillard; harold mcmillan; Greg Smith; Stanton Strickland; sean@pegasusplanning.com
Cc: Copic, Regina; Saenz, Kathleen; Dukes, Ateja
Subject: Re: Block 18 Interim Use

Hello Sandra and All,

I totally agree with Lisa's statement. It's sort of an exercise in frustration to pull people, who are already very busy doing whatever they do, together to come up with ideas to improve public property only to tell them, "We do not have any resources for this." We give our time and input because we care about what happens on East 11th, in our neighborhoods, and in our city. So, Sean and Sandra, thank you for arranging things and thank the URB for wanting to know what people would like to see happen.

But, we did a little brainstorming a year ago and then some of us have gotten broader community input while others, mostly Harold, have developed ideas to expand current efforts. But, we were effectively reminded yesterday that, "It's up to you folks to make things happen." That's not true, or fair, or realistic. Try to imagine me getting my neighbors together, asking them for ideas on how to fix up my run down property, and they do that because they want the neighborhood to look better. And then I tell them, "Okay, it's up to you, my good neighbors to get the money together and fix up my property." That's plain wacko.

Sandra, I would suggest that, if your job is to report back to URB on "ideas", then I think you're more or less finished gathering input unless you or someone appointed by URB goes to the most impacted neighborhoods, business and arts groups and OCEAN and gathers more "ideas". Please be sure to let URB know that we all have other work we're doing and, as much as we would like to see improvement on Block 18, none of us have much additional time and no significant resources to implement ideas. They are the "owners" and, even though Harold has a lease, they should be "slum lords",.. literally in this case being as how that block has been declared part of a slum and blight. It is the job of the URB and City to implement improvement for the area, so they should be creatively and actively working on that (and we all see that efforts have been made).

Obviously, Harold has a lease and that needs to be given high consideration. He has been doing things on the block and has ideas for going forward. As I mentioned yesterday, I think his latest ideas need a little more vetting, but, at least those have some momentum. They are based more in "reality" than the "concept" we tossed together in a couple hours over a year ago and I think the focus should be on his proposal.

Finally, I reiterate Lisa's conclusion that it is the property owner's responsibility to bring the property up to some sort of respectable standard, especially when the owner is a public entity, and even more especially when that public entity is charged with seeing that blighted areas are improved.

Simply getting ideas from people who care, followed by telling them, "We don't have any resources to make those ideas come to fruition," is not going to satisfy anyone.

Mark C. Rogers

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From: Lisa Byrd <lisa@proartsaustin.org>
To: "Harkins, Sandra" <Sandra.Harkins@austintexas.gov>; Tom Hatch <tomhatch@huoarchitects.com>; clifford gillard <anotheroptionproductions@gmail.com>; harold mcmillan <director@diversearts.org>; gndc@sbcglobal.net; Greg Smith <gsmith@austinrev.org>; Stanton Strickland <originalstanton@yahoo.com>; sean@pegasusplanning.com

9/19/2011

Cc: "Copic, Regina" <Regina.Copic@austintexas.gov>; "Saenz, Kathleen" <Kathleen.Saenz@austintexas.gov>; "Dukes, Ateja" <Ateja.Dukes@austintexas.gov>
Sent: Fri, September 9, 2011 2:00:58 PM
Subject: RE: Block 18 Interim Use

Sandra et. Al

Thinking a little more about our conversation on Wednesday, I want to reiterate my thoughts about the URB request of this ad hoc committee. I believe that it is the responsibility of the URB (as land owner) to maintain and upgrade the land they own. I also believe it is their responsibility as land owner to secure the resources to maintain and upgrade the land they own. Further I believe the URB has a responsibility to this community (the community where they own property) not cause instability in the neighborhoods by leaving lots vacant and unused for a period of time. We as a community can help the URB by suggesting ideas and supporting their positive efforts but it is not the community's responsibility to find funding to upgrade someone else's property. The URB should understand we want to be partners, encourage development and encourage interim use that will be a value add to the neighborhood not a detractor.

Please include my sentiments as a part of your report back the board, thanks.

PROARTS COLLECTIVES'

FESTIVAL

April 26t - 27th & June 3rd - 18Th, 2011
www.bamaustin.org

-----Original Message-----

From: Harkins, Sandra [mailto:Sandra.Harkins@austintexas.gov]
Sent: Friday, August 19, 2011 2:43 PM
To: Harkins, Sandra; Tom Hatch; clifford gillard; harold mcmillan; gndc@sbcglobal.net; Greg Smith; Stanton Strickland; Lisa Byrd; sean@pegasusplanning.com
Cc: Copic, Regina; Saenz, Kathleen; Dukes, Ateja
Subject: RE: Block 18 Interim Use
Importance: High

The three dates I proposed in my original email below will not work. I offer these alternate dates and times for your consideration?

Sept 7th - 3 - 4 pm

Sept 8th - 5:30 - 6:30

I would also be willing to meet on Sat 9/10 in the morning if that works better for all of you.

Let me know as soon as you can.

Thanks

-----Original Message-----

From: Harkins, Sandra
Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2011 7:48 AM
To: 'Tom Hatch'; 'clifford gillard'; 'harold mcmillan'; 'gndc@sbcglobal.net'; 'Greg Smith'; 'Stanton Strickland'; 'Lisa Byrd'; 'sean@pegasusplanning.com'

9/19/2011

Cc: Copic, Regina; Saenz, Kathleen; Dukes, Ateja
Subject: Block 18 Interim Use
Importance: High

At last nights Urban Renewal Board, staff was directed to contact you guys regarding the status of Block 18 Interim Use discussions. I would like to schedule a meeting with all of you to discuss your efforts thus far. In addition, there will be an item regarding the Block 18 Interim Use on the URB's September 19th meeting agenda.

I am available August 23, 24, 25 in the afternoon and/or evening. Let me know if these dates work for you or not.

Thanks

Please note my new email address: sandra.harkins@austintexas.gov Sandra Harkins Project Coordinator, Real Estate & Finance Development Neighborhood Housing & Community Development Street-Jones Building 1000 E. 11th Street, Ste 200, 78702
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http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/ahfc/comm_revital.htm