MEETING MINUTES

Date: Sept 15, 2021 @4:30 pm on Zoom.

Attendees: D Wren, L Conyers, R. Steggeman – from Nehr, D Jeter, N. McNeely. J Anderson

Special Guest: Ken Little, Director, Commercial Corridor Team – Phone: (414) 286-8201; Lafayette Crump, Commissioner of DCD -

*The meeting began at 3:30 p.m. with introductions of the attendees. The meeting concluded at 4:32p.m.*

Discussion on Buildings/Land owned by the City of Milwaukee

The NTABA has members who are interested in purchasing the following city -owned properties:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 3472 N TEUTONIA AV | LB2 | VACANT LAND (demo 2010)  |  |
| 3554 N TEUTONIA AV | LB2 | MULTI-FAMILY | McNeely  |
| 3659 N TEUTONIA AV | LB2 | VACANT LAND  |  |
| 3667 N TEUTONIA AV | LB2 | VACANT LAND |  |
| 3700 N TEUTONIA AV | LB2 | MIXED COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL |  |
| 3701 N TEUTONIA AV | LB2 | PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND BUILDINGS, CHURCHES, CEMETARIES, QUASI-PUBLIC | Steggman & Wehr |
| 3706 N TEUTONIA AV | LB2 | VACANT LAND |  |
| 3742 N TEUTONIA AV | LB2 | VACANT LAND (demo 2015)  | Steggeman |
| 3825 N TEUTONIA AV | LB2 | WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE | Business Assoc |
| 3875 N TEUTONIA AV | LB2 | VACANT LAND (demo 2011)  |  |
| 3879 N TEUTONIA AV | LB2 | VACANT LAND |  |
| 3927 N 21ST ST | RT3 | VACANT LAND (demo 2012)  |  |
| 3929 N TEUTONIA AV | LB2 | VACANT LAND |  |

\*\*\*It should be noted that the City has demolished several buildings in the N. Teutonia Ave area in the past 10 years.

Properties of Interest:

* 3538 N. Teutonia Ave: Conyers voiced a desire to take ownership of the Granny’s nook building. This unit is privately owned and has been vacant for over 25 years.
* 3701 N. Teutonia Ave.: Steggeman expressed interest in using the property located 3701 to expand the NEHR Electric parking facilities. An alternate location for its parking would be the vacant lot located at 3742 N. Teutonia that is owned by the city.
* 3701 N. Teutonia Ave. Wren expressed interest in rehabbing the property located at 3701 N. Teutonia Ave. This building has damage from a fire and other water damage. She is interested in converting this building into a respite for caretakers.

Jeter has purchased two properties located at 3246 N. Teutonia. He plans to put in a daycare in that space.

Anderson is looking to start an event planning business in the area. She is seeking space throughout the N. Teutonia Ave area.

**New Programs with the City of Milwaukee**

* Legacy Pilot Program – NEED ADDITIONAL DETAIL REGARDING THIS PROGRAM.
* ARCH program – work with the city to refurbish abandoned properties into arts programming or community centers.

**Issues/Concerns;**

Whiteboxing and the Façade Grant: Members of the business association still unable to access the services offered through the Whiteboxing and Façade Grant programs. There is also the ARCH Program that provides a $25K loan for a resources center. Business owners feel that they are getting gaslighted and ghosted by City staff who has been put in charge of these programs. Ken Little suggests that any applicants from the N. Teutonia Ave business association should contact him directly for assistance in these programs.

Matt Haessly: Haessley is the city employee in charge of city-owned commercial properties. Several business association members have had difficulty working with this individual. His demeanor has led several members to believe that he prefers to let the area go into ruin and does not wish to release the city-owned properties to individuals who are interested in rehab.

**Lack of Maintenance of City-owned Properties:** The business association members were concerned about the lack of care and overwhelming blight associated with city-owned properties in the area. The City has a concerning track record of acquiring properties, not maintaining those properties, ignoring critter damage, and other unauthorized access to the buildings. One member questioned why the City would accuse a citizen resident of not taking care of their property, dispossess that individual of their property, and then leave the property to deteriorate, and demolish a perfectly good commercial building. The demolition-first mentality of the city staff seems more an insidious ploy to destroy black and brown economic development.

**Follow Up with Department of City Development | Friday, Sept. 24, 2021.**

Ken Little recommends that individuals make contact with him in order to voice their concerns about the DCD programs. He has set a date of Sept. 24th to follow up with information on purchasing city-owned properties within the N. Teutonia Ave area and providing guidance on how to access the new programs that are being offered by the City of Milwaukee.

,