

## **Presidents' Breakfast Group**

Saturday, November 9, 2024 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Host: Langston Boulevard Alliance

### Attendees:

Tia Alfred  
Patrick Brennan  
Ginger Brown  
Mike Cantwell  
Maggie Chao  
Brian Davis  
John Ford  
Elaine Furlow  
Ben Keeney  
Jean Henceroth  
Paul Holland  
Jim Lantelme  
Eric Malpeli  
Zach Newkirk  
Jolie Pillsbury  
Terri Prell  
Richard Price  
Andrew Schneider  
Jackie Snelling  
Jim Todd  
Anne Wilson  
John Wilson  
Tom Wolfe  
John Vihstadt

The meeting started with introductions and welcoming remarks by Ginger Brown, LBA Executive Director. She discussed LBA's new website and the various ways that LBA is supporting civic associations along the corridor.

Ginger also opened the discussion on the re-organization of the Presidents' Breakfast Group and the possible slate of issues that would be most important to the group. The group suggested meeting three times a year and suggested that a steering committee would help to organize the breakfasts.

Suggestions for the most pressing issues included:

Transportation

Pedestrian Safety

Community Centers

Retail Issues, including supporting existing businesses and navigating a complicated retail plan Holding the County Accountable

Making sure that we engage with the County's Capital Improvement Plan

LBA facilitate more communication with county staff

Making sure that we create plans that are flexible  
Lessons learned from the Pike  
Engage with businesses more

Suggestions for LBA to foster more engagement and communication surrounding redevelopment on website and other channels. One suggestion was that LBA might build out a webpage on development projects and publish letters that civic associations had written.

Ginger discussed LBA's policy to act as a facilitator with developers and staff. The policy and timeline for LBA input is on LBA's webpage.

Jim Lantelme, LBA Board President, gave an update on transportation issues and studies on the boulevard. There was a robust discussion on transportation issues facing the corridor. There was general agreement on the need to explore the ownership by the County of Langston Boulevard. Attendees felt VDOT ownership is constantly a barrier to realizing the vision of the boulevard.

### **Transportation**

The group discussed the challenges that Langston Boulevard faces due to ownership by VDOT. The County has taken control from VDOT of some streets in the past, including Columbia Pike and Fairfax Drive. Complications increase when a roadway is a federal highway – like Langston. Understanding the complexities, pros and cons and processes involved would be a good first step.

There is a current opportunity to engage with staff. County is redoing the Master Transportation Plan - not law, but guidance. Opportunity for feedback closes on Nov 19.

Suggested actions:

- Create a Transportation Committee - let Ginger know if you would like to be a member.

Request a memo from staff on why ownership of Langston Blvd. was not considered despite it being brought to their attention.

-Perhaps each Civic Association write a letter

-LBA vote on position and publish publicly.

-Consider lessons learned on ownership from the Pike

-Flesh out the differences in price, limitations, and opportunity for change between VDOT and County ownership with measurable outcomes

### **Community Centers**

Jean Henceroth gave a presentation on the effort to preserve and re-imagine the LAC (formerly known as the Lee Arts Center).

The group agreed that this would be a good platform issue to support.

Suggested Action:

Create a Community Center Committee of the Presidents' Breakfast Group to address the planning for the future of all Langston Community Centers (currently Dawson Terrace, Langston and LAC).

## **Stormwater**

Jackie Snelling gave an overview of the work done by the Spout Run Watershed Work Group. She noted that stormwater plans exist and PLB exists, but there is no clear implementation plan that meshes the two.

Suggested Action:

More closely align the work of the Spout Run Watershed Work Group with the Langston Boulevard Presidents' Breakfast group to address the lack of an implementation plan.

After additional discussion, the group settled on roughly four main issues on which to focus in 2024:

- Transportation/Pedestrian Safety/CIP Committee (Top Priority)
- Community Centers Committee (Top Priority)
- Retail (Up next after Community Centers and Transportation Committees are set up)
- Stormwater (Support Spout Run Work Group)