TULSA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY BOARD MEETING
STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: November 2, 2017
TO: Chairman and Board Members
FROM: Office of Tulsa Development Authority
SUBJECT: University of Notre Dame Graduate Urban Design Studio

Background:

Owner: N/A
Developer: N/A
Engineer: N/A
Location: Study Area Bounded by I-244 to the South, East Pine Street to the North, the L.L. Tisdale Parkway to the West, and U.S. Route 75 to the East
Size of Tract: N/A
Number of Lots: N/A
Development Area: Heritage Hills/Greenwood Neighborhood Plan
Fair Market Value: N/A
Notre Dame Urban Design Studio: Jennifer Griffin

Relevant Info:

Attachments: Notre Dame Studio Sample Work
Recommendations: This is for information only
Reviewed By: O.C. Walker

This letter is to provide a brief update to the Tulsa Development Authority on the current Unity Heritage Neighborhoods Design Workshop and Study conducted by the University of Notre Dame Graduate Urban Design Studio. The study is a grassroots initiative sponsored and supported by various members of the local community with the intent to build off of the recent Unity Heritage Neighborhoods Sector Plan report by further engaging the community and producing a series of urban and architectural designs to explore, test, and visualize the potential for future development of this area. The hope is that both the process and the outcomes of the study serve as a resource and learning experience for both the community and the students.

To kick-off the study, the Notre Dame studio traveled to Tulsa from September 8th-16th to conduct a week-long intensive design workshop with the community. During the week, the students toured the site, downtown, and the surrounding neighborhoods on bike and on foot; met with various stakeholders and community members; and began their initial design study based on suggestions and input that they received. The workshop received an incredible response from the community, with some events throughout the week drawing more than 80 people in attendance.
In addition to three public input sessions held throughout the week, the studio met with various stakeholders and community representatives in a series of small group meetings to gain a better understanding of the assets, challenges, and opportunities of the site. Some of the individuals and organizations that the studio met with include:

- Tulsa Development Authority Executive Director O.C. Walker and Board Member Thomas Boxley.
- OSU-Tulsa Vice President for Administration Ron Bussert as well as OSU-Tulsa staff and student representatives.
- Langston University Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs Lisa Weis.
- Brady Heights Historic District, Inc.
- The Greenwood Cultural Center Director of Development Bill White.
- Oklahoma House Representative Regina Goodwin.
- Tulsa City Councilor Vanessa Hall-Harper.
- Tulsa City Councilor Blake Ewing.
- City of Tulsa Chief of Community Development and Policy Nick Doctor.
- City of Tulsa Planning and Development Director Dawn Warrick.
- Tulsa Public Schools Design and Innovation Lab.
- Tulsa Public Schools Emerson Montessori Teachers.
- Coalescent Community Development Corporation.
- RISE.
- TYPros.
- Author, attorney, and local historian Hannibal Johnson.
- Attorney and Oklahoma Eagle Owner and Publisher Jim Goodwin.
- Tulsa Housing Authority President and CEO Aaron Darden.
- Tulsa Habitat for Humanity Executive Director Cameron Walker.
- Leadership Tulsa’s LEAD North Program Director Ashley Philippsen.
- George Kaiser Family Foundation Senior Program Officer for Civic Enhancement Stanton Doyle.

After their week-long workshop in Tulsa, the studio returned to Notre Dame and are continuing their study of the area based on the comments and feedback they received during their time here. In early November, the studio will share their in-process design work to gain additional feedback from the community. Finally, in December, the studio plans to return to Tulsa to make a final presentation of their semester-long work, which is given to the community to use as an ongoing resource.

We look forward to keeping you updated on the studio’s progress and to sharing their work with you, and we thank you for your interest in this study.

Best regards,

Jennifer Griffin