



## Emerson-Garfield Steering Committee and Neighborhood Council

*Wednesday, August 12th, 2015*

The meeting began at 7:13 p.m. following a potluck in Corbin Park. After introductions, 22 voting members were present, well above the 14 member minimum.

The main topic of discussion was the [Community Development Block Grants](#) (CDBG) funding. The deadline for an initial proposal by each neighborhood has been moved to August 31st. Although it is earlier in the year than normal, it will be beneficial, giving more time to planning.

The proposal only needed to be a display of our interest in particular projects. The minimum amount to be allocated to each project, aside from sidewalk funding, is \$10,000. That total can be a combination of multiple neighborhoods. Two of the four projects that appealed to voting members involved such cooperation with another area.

The project with the most interest was a collaboration with the [North Hill](#) Neighborhood for the gateway property on [North Monroe near Cora Street](#). This project received 20 out of 20 possible votes. Trees and shrubs could be planted in order to beautify the unused land. Funding from other sources could cover irrigation, and [Project Hope](#) could plant Gardens there.

The second proposal of interest involved Fulcrum's Ash Street Workforce Training Station. The Neighborhood Council allocated money for the training station last year, which would serve to train former convicts for work, reducing recurring crime in our neighborhood. This particular project would be partnering with Chief Gary Park for the third training bay. This project received 17 votes and one abstention.

The third project voted on was the garage or ADA ramp for the [West Central Community Center](#). As a substantial portion of the center's clients are residents of Emerson-Garfield, this project was of particular interest to the voting members. 15 votes were in favor of this project, plus 1 abstention. There were no votes against this project.

The fourth project voted on was for public safety improvements for Emerson Park. Improvements could involve lighting and a perimeter sidewalk. Transients seem to be a strong problem along the perimeter of the park. Increased traffic, such as walking dogs in a loop, may be a deterrent for those sleeping in the park. This project received 17 votes.

There were other projects that were discussed, but which received no official votes. One such project was the addition of new sidewalks within the neighborhood. This was not chosen as an official project, because we are always in need of new sidewalks. We can use the remainder of the CDBG funding for sidewalk projects, and we may also use traffic calming funds for sidewalks.

Another topic of interest was North Monroe revitalization. This has been delayed until 2018, so it would not be ideal to request funding which would need to be used within the calendar year. We still have interest in this project, but it would be best to use this funding closer to the time of the revitalization.

One last topic was SNAP home repair. Because there is no longer a 2-to-1 matching of funds, it is not as high on the agenda.

Additional topics not on the agenda were reports from various committees. The first report was regarding [Corbin Senior Activity Center](#). The Department of Commerce informed Corbin that the State Capital Budget includes an appropriation of 300,000 dollars for the elevator project. It will cost more than that, but these funds will need to be used soon.

On September 19th Corbin will be having an annual auction dinner. The cost is \$30 in advance. Donations and attendance is encouraged.

Barbara Biles reported on the [Land Use Committee](#). The cell tower moratorium was extended to October. Notification must be given in advance to occupants within a wider radius of 600 feet. Hopefully, the cell phone towers will also be aesthetically pleasing.

The [Pedestrian Traffic and Transportation \(PeTT\) Committee](#) talked about how it is difficult to identify sidewalks needing repairs. They desire more participation from residents in identifying those projects.

Megan Kennedy reported on the [West Quadrant Tax Increment Financing \(WQTIF\) Committee](#), which she is hopeful to become an official member of in the coming months. The last meeting the committee did not have a quorum, so it involved more casual conversation, but Megan learned that the development of North Monroe was delayed until 2018 primarily because the City wanted to take the time to weigh options as to how best implement the improvements based in part on continued feedback from stakeholders and in part on what they learn from other corridor improvement processes in the meantime.

The last report prior to the conclusion of the meeting was regarding the [Emerson-Garfield Farmers' Market](#). [Congresswoman Cathy McMorris Rodgers](#) came through on July 31 to see how the market is accepting [Farmers Market Nutrition Program \(FMNP\) vouchers](#) to encourage a healthier diet for low- and moderate-income families.

The meeting concluded at approximately 7:45, although attendees continued to converse until approximately 8:30.