

FREDERICK DOUGLASS SCHOOL BLACK EDUCATORS' PROJECT MEETING

November 2, 2021

PRESENT:

Patti McLauchlin, City Manager
Steve McAlearney, Director of Engineering
Amanda Willett-Ramirez, CRA Manager
Karen Wilman, Architect
John Wilson Smith, President, FDSBEP
Portia Navarro, Executive Administrator

A meeting to meet with Mr. John Wilson Smith, President of the FDSBE, to discuss a space for the FDSBEP Museum.

President Smith asked if he could record the meeting for the other members of the committee.

City Manager McLauchlin once again asked for the names and contact information of the committee members.

President Smith stated he did not have that information and said he would take notes instead. He also asked if he could receive copies of the notes of the Portia, the Executive Administrator.

City Manager McLauchlin answered in the affirmative.

Architect Karen Wilman advised that the Engineering Department are in the process of designing a building to provide spaces for:

- A brand-new community center
- A brand-new courtyard
- Tutoring classrooms
- Room – Music Program
- Kitchen
- Areas to display pictures, art, etc.
- Approximate room size 250 square feet
- Building will be above flood.

City Manager McLauchlin request that we be provided with:

- Members names and contact information
- Number of pieces pictures, art, etc.
- Copy of the committee plan
- Room size
- Inventory

Architect Wilman requested an inventory be provided as soon as possible and that a shovel in the ground will take place in about a year from now.

In response President Smith stated:

- Museums needs to be contained in one building.
- Custom House has designated an area just for the FDSBEP.
- Custom display should run about one year.
- Museum needs to have visibility.

President Smith conversations continued as to the importance of the presence of a Black historical museum in the Bahama Village area. He reiterated there is a lot of history to be shared with the family members currently living and those who may express an interest in Bahama Village heritage and culture. These stories must be told.

City Manager McLauchlin stated we have no problem with assisting you and the FDSBE in this endeavor, but as stated we need the size of the room for inventory and to determine how much space you will need.

Can you give us an idea as to what type of display, exhibit will be placed in the Custom House?

President Smith stated they are reserving a large room for the FDSBE to showcase some of their art and exhibits.

Conversations continued and City Manager McLauchlin asked President Smith to meet with the City on a regular basis so we can determine what we need to do to assist FDSBE.

Executive Administrator Portia asked President Smith if he wanted to schedule another meeting with the City in about two weeks, and he said he would contact the city manager office once he has spoken with the other members.