



EARLY ACTION ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

MEETING SUMMARY #3 – THURSDAY, JUNE 27, 2024 – 5:30PM-6:30PM

HIGH SCHOOL IN THE COMMUNITY – 175 WATER STREET, NEW HAVEN, CT 06511

Meeting Purpose

To review and approve early action items for the Union Square/Hill project, ensuring alignment with our goals and community needs.

Committee Members Present

Edward LaChance, Josh Golden, Alder Carmen Rodriguez, Mark Wilson, Doris Doward, Linda Cross, Josh Golden, Jeffrey Walker, Malachi Bridges, Patrick Hulin, Angela Hatley, Jimmy Miller, Haley Vincent, Giovanni Zinn,

Committee Members Absent

Jeffrey Moreno, Pamela Monk-Kelley, John Pupello, Dolores Colon, Rosaly Rosario, Arlevia, Tomi Veale, Charmain Yun, Anstress Farwell, Samuel, Scott Kalicki, James Turcio, Roni Elliot, Thomasina Shaw

Other Presents

Amos Smith, Krystal Harris, Carmen Gonzalez, Aura Soto, Iior Soto

-PRESENTATION MATERIALS ARE ATTACHED TO THIS DOCUMENT-

1.0 Welcome & Update of Project Status

Ms. Vincent, Program Manager, welcomed attendees and led introductions. Ms. Vincent provided a brief update on the project and introduced Co-Leads of Committee, Joshua Golden and Edward LaChance, who conducted the roll call. Ms. Vincent stated that we will vote on the early action items at this meeting. This is necessary to prepare a plan to submit to HUD by September 2024. Ms. Vincent handed over the meeting to Jimmy Miller to lead the activity.

2.0 Discussion of Doing While Planning

Committee Co-Lead, Edward LaChance, walked the committee through the rationale for the Early Action Committee and the “Doing While Planning” Model and the process that HUD requires for this Choice Neighborhood Planning Grant. Program Manager, Haley Vincent, explained that we will have to draft an Early Action Plan to provide to HUD by September 2024 so it is important to vote on this today. The Resident Advisory Committee met on May 1, 2024, to refine their ideas for improving Wolfe. Schematics and mock-ups were presented, and based on this feedback, ECC/Glendower is now moving forward with procuring the work.

In tandem, we will use the early action funds to implement projects that preserve the vibrant history of Union Square and Trowbridge Park. Mr. Miller and Mr. LaChance reviewed the prioritization and leveraging of these funds. They explained that we can create a passthrough agreement allowing the City to complete the work. Proposed items include: 1. Enhancing Trowbridge Square Park by regrading and rebuilding stone dust paths and installing a pendulum swing. 2. Adding a creative interpretive display monument to outline the historical context and significance of Trowbridge Square Park. 3. Installing banners throughout the Union Square neighborhood as part of the beautification effort. Tomi Veale has confirmed Fresh food mobile market scheduled for Robert T. Wolfe on August 23rd.

During the meeting, the urgency of beautifying Wolfe was questioned. The focus shifted to prioritizing immediate usability over aesthetics, particularly addressing elevator repairs. Mr. LaChance, Ms. Vincent, and Mr. Miller agreed to coordinate efforts with ECC to address resident concerns. Participants emphasized the importance of continued pressure to prompt action on operational and safety issues. Participants also expressed concerns about basic property management, including cleaning the interior, washing walls and stairwells, consistent power washing, repainting every three years, and having security in the front office.

3.0 Early Action Activities Identification

The Early Action Committee voted unanimously in favor of the proposed early action items. Mr. Zinn has committed to working with the Board of Alders to secure approval for a passthrough agreement. Ms. Vincent will provide a detailed write-up of all proposed activities. Mr. Zinn and Mr. Wilson will meet with Parks & Recreation to get approval for the proposed work.

There was significant discussion regarding the proposed image for the banners. The committee was unclear about the image and its meaning. Ms. Hatley emphasized that this park and section of Union Square are rich in history and should reflect that as much as possible. Mr. Smith suggested including a QR code or link to information about the history of the neighborhood's transition. Ms. Harris proposed creating a symbol that connects to the area's history, expressing concerns that using an image of a train on the banner might be associated with Union Station rather than the park's history. Ms. Harris also suggested an exhibition inside the Trowbridge Recreational Center upon its reopening.

Mr. Golden recommended and provided a drawing as an example for the banner and recommended using a lantern as a symbol, which could be more elaborate and represent the transition from the history of slavery. Mr. Miller expressed interest in sharing Golden's drawing with ECC's President.

4.0. Questions

Will there be a tower in the park to call the police if anyone feels unsafe?

Can you email the link to the audio of Trowbridge's history?



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5.0. Next Steps

The next meeting date is August 1, 2024. Mr. Zinn will work with the Board of Alders to secure approval for the passthrough agreement, while Ms. Vincent prepares a detailed write-up of all proposed activities for the Trowbridge Square Park improvements. Mr. Zinn Harris will explore the possibility of creating an exhibition inside the Trowbridge Recreational Center upon its reopening. Mr. Zinn and Mr. Wilson will meet with Parks & Recreation to obtain approval for the proposed work. The banner designs will be reviewed and refined based on feedback, with Mr. Miller sharing Mr. Golden’s drawing with ECC's President for further input. In preparation for the next meeting, a draft of the plan will be presented for discussion and review.



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Early Action Committee

JUNE 27, 2024



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Agenda – Meeting # 3

- I. Welcoming – Program Manager**
- II. Roll-Call – Co-Leads**
- III. Updates/Minutes from Last Meeting**
- IV. Purpose and Guidelines for EAA**
- V. Prioritization of EAA**
- VI. Q and A**
- VII. Next Steps**



Doing While Planning

Early Action Activities

Early Action Activity refers to limited, physical neighborhood improvements undertaken during the planning process.

These activities should support the planning process through:

- Engaging the community
- Fostering social cohesion
- Reinforce the planning process

Activities must:

- Be responsive to neighborhood needs
- Used for physical community development or
- Economic development that enhances and accelerates the transformation of the neighborhood.



EAA Planning and Approval Process

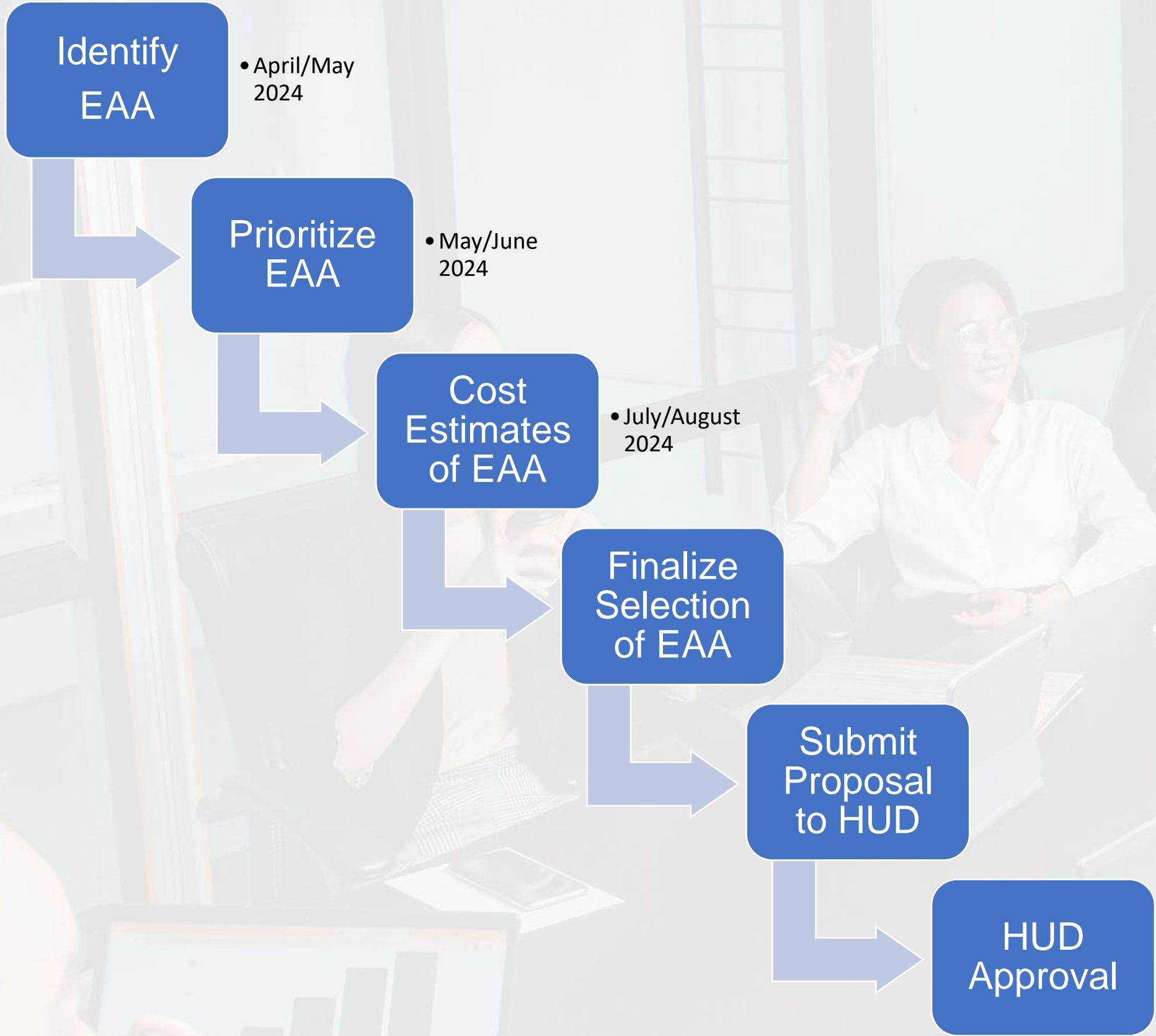
Early Action Activities & Approval Process

Grantees must secure HUD approval and complete their early action activities within the first 12 months of their grant

- A description and justification of the early action activity
- Administrative details, including who is responsible for administering the plan
- A project budget that details the sources and uses for the early action activity
- A project's operational budget, if the project will continue to be operated after construction;
- A project schedule
- A part 58 environmental review, or documentation that the activity is Exempt;: Categorically Excluded not subject to part 58; or are Categorically Excluded subject to the part 58;
- A part 58 environmental review can take as long as six months
- HUD encourages the use of Early Action Activity Funds for grants instead of loans
- HUD typically does not approve the use of early action activity funds for land use on an interim basis, unless it is for the purposes or reclaiming and recycling vacant land



EAA Planning and Approval Process



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Possible EAA in Union Square/The Hill

At Church Street South

The Resident Advisory Committee met on May 1, 2024, and were given an opportunity to further refine their ideas of March 27, 2024. Schematic and mock-up were shown to the residents. recommend the work they wanted to see a part of the Early Action Activities. Based input from the residents ECC/Glendower is in the process of procuring the work recommended by the residents.



Possible EAA In Union Square/The Hill

In the Broader Union Square Hill Area

The Early Action Committee wanted to implement projects that would preserve the vibrant history of Union Square and Trowbridge Park. Trowbridge Square Park was unanimously selected as their top priority.

The committee identified the following as proposed activities:

- HUD involvement w/ winter farmer's market as community building
- Façade of Barbell & park landscape
- Banner & Sign
- RR underground plate on each corner of Trowbridge Park
- Beautification of Kimberly Square.
- Transforming Bayview Park into a Healing Arts Park
- Investment in Hill Parks that need upgrading
- Underground RR Mural
- Lighting (some residents would like more lighting at the nighttime)
- Regularly de-clog the sewer system to prevent flooding with sewer backing up into 1st floor apartments



Prioritization and Leveraging

<input type="checkbox"/> Park Improvements	
<input type="checkbox"/> Trowbridge Park Improvements	
<input type="checkbox"/> Regrade and rebuild stone dust paths	- \$65,000
<input type="checkbox"/> Pendulum swing	- \$28,000
<input type="checkbox"/> Community Arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> Interpretive display monument	- \$35,000
<input type="checkbox"/> Signages	
<input type="checkbox"/> Banners	- \$10,000
<input type="checkbox"/> Improvements at R.T. Wolfe	
<input type="checkbox"/> Contingency	- <u>\$13,800</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> TOTAL	\$151,800



Possible EAA In Union Square/The Hill (cont'd)



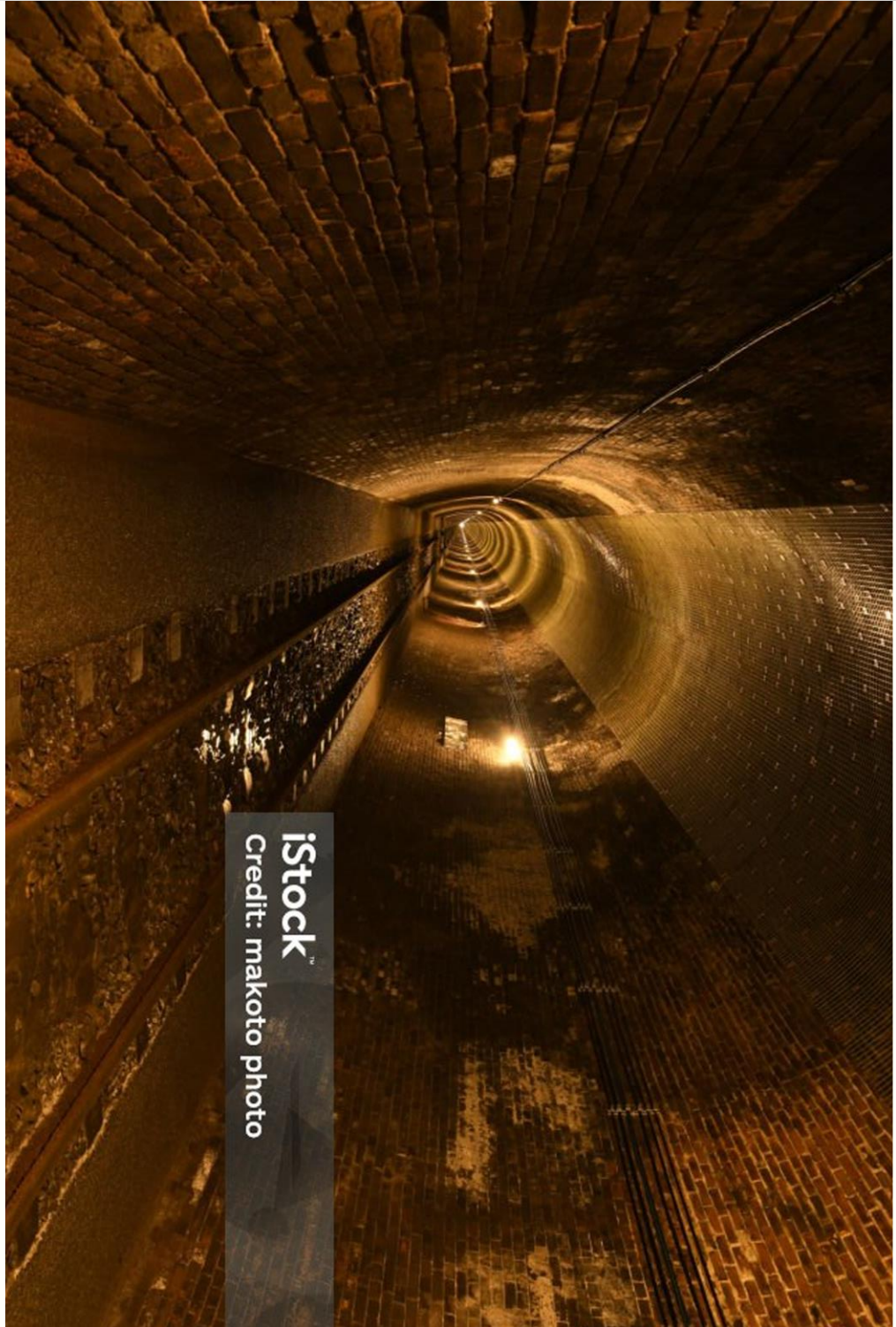
		
No.	Revision/Issue	Date
		
CITY OF NEW HAVEN DEPARTMENT OF ENGINEERING		
		
THE HONORABLE JUSTIN M. ELICKER, MAYOR <small>GIOVANNI ZINN, P.E., CITY ENGINEER</small>		
<small>Project Name and Address</small> Trowbridge Square Improvements		
<small>Drawn By</small> C. FLANAGAN		
<small>Designed By</small> C. FLANAGAN		
<small>Date</small> 6/25/2024		
<small>Project Number</small> #####		
<small>Professional Seal</small> 		
<small>Sheet Title</small> #####		
<small>Sheet Number</small> #####		



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Trowbridge Square Historic District



iStock
Credit: makoto photo



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Possible EAA in Union Square/The Hill (cont'd)



Honoring Daniel Stewart in the Q House plaza.



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Questions and Answers



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