



CITY OF BELLE ISLE, FLORIDA CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: January 18, 2022

To: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

From: B. Francis, City Manager

Subject: Agreement for the Lancaster House

Background: For the past three years, the City has reviewed many comments on what to do with the Lancaster House. The last official action taken by the Council was at the May 5, 2020 Council meeting, when the Council passed a motion that July 1, 2020 would be the final date to for anyone interested in moving the building and to take it upon them to move it or proceed with demolition. Since that time, Kimberly Stevens, who lives across the street from the Lancaster House, contacted the City and stated she would like to move the house to her property (5817 Randolph Avenue). Ms. Stevens and her family have been very diligent in trying to move the house to her property. This has been a very long, complicated, and emotional process.

This issue is similar to the situation in 2013 when CCA no longer used the Crawford House and was going to demolish the house. Pine Castle Historical Society stepped in and wanted the house saved. The City declared the Crawford House as surplus property with no value, so the City and PCHS entered into an agreement where the PCHS was considered the “buyer” of the house (although no money was exchanged for the house). As part of this agreement, the City gave the house to the PCHS, as long as it was PCHS’ responsibility to move the house from the City property and pay for that move. The City contributed to this project by working with the utility company to move the utility lines. The Crawford House was moved and an historical building was saved.

There is no difference with the Lancaster House. Since the house is still standing, it should go without saying that the City Council and CCA want to save this historic home. If they didn’t, it would have been demolished over three years ago. However, CCA, in the best interest of their students, needs to expand and modernize the school campus. The Lancaster House does not fit in these future plans. The City would rather save the house than destroy it.

An agreement was drafted, similar to PCHS agreement, that will transfer ownership of the house to Ms. Stevens or Elizabeth Frazier (the owner of the property at 5817 Randolph Avenue), but they are responsible for moving the house to their property as outlined in the Agreement. They also have to move the house by March 1, 2022.

With the very real possibility that a new lease will be in place soon between the City and CCA, Ms. Stevens, or Ms. Frazier, needs to appear before the CCA Board and tell them that she wants the house, she has a contractor to move the house and present the CCA Board with a copy of the signed contract. Most importantly, she has to commit to moving the house by the date in the agreement (March 1, 2022). If that's not possible, then she should work with the CCA Board to determine a new date.

Staff Recommendation: Approve the Agreement for the Lancaster House.

Suggested Motion: I move approve the Agreement with Elizabeth Frazier, 5817 Randolph Avenue, for moving the Lancaster House.

Alternatives: Not approve the agreement and demolish the House.

Fiscal Impact: \$20,000

Attachments: Agreement