

Lower Price Hill grocery renovation could help prevent 'food desert'

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(Photo: Provided/Price Hill Will)

Price Hill Will, a community development corporation that serves East, West and Lower Price Hill, has received a grant from the city to rehab Meiser's Parkview Market. The market is located at 738 State Ave.

The city provided the grant funding as part of its Neighborhood Business District Improvement Program through the Department of Community and Economic Development. The grant, which is for \$350,000, will also go toward renovating a vacant building next to the grocer. The space had previously been a beauty parlor.

Sam McKinley, director of community engagement for Price Hill Will, said plans are to eventually open a sandwich and coffee shop at the site.

McKinley said the grant funding will be used by Price Hill Will to buy the buildings and then renovate them.

Renovations at Meiser's will include adding new floors, installing a new HVAC unit and other improvements.

McKinley said Price Hill Will expects to buy the Lower Price Hill buildings in November and begin renovations in January 2018.

"There is a renaissance going on in Lower Price Hill," McKinley said. According to McKinley, other improvements are planned in the community.

McKinley said Price Hill Will is partnering with the [Community Learning Center Institute](#), [Model Group](#), the [Lower Price Hill Community Council](#) and the local business association to help revitalize the area.

Carl Meiser, owner of Meiser's Parkview Market, said he is waiting for confirmation of the purchase of the property and declined to comment on specifics until further information was available. "I'm not sure what to expect," he said. "I'm waiting for further developments."

McKinley said a goal of the arrangement was to take some of "renovation burden" off of Meiser and also provide an incentive to stay in the area.

"It is the only full line grocery in the area," McKinley said. "This is preventing Lower Price Hill from sinking into a food desert."

A food desert refers to an area where fresh produce and other nutritional foods are unavailable.

McKinley said plans for the sandwich and coffee shop have to be finalized. However, he said box lunches will likely be available at the sandwich shop when it eventually opens.