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HIGH SPRINGS
COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY MEETING
MINUTES
JANUARY 22, 2015

Meeting called to order by Chair Williams 5:07 p.m.

Invocation by Chair Williams.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call:

- Chair Williams – Present
- Vice Chair Evans – Present
- Member Bass - Present
- Member James – Present – arrived at 5:50 p.m.
- Member Jamison – Absent
- Member Sylvia Newcomb – Present
- Member Weller - Present

Staff Present:

- Amanda Rodriguez, Executive Director
- Jenny L. Parham, City Clerk
- Courtney Johnson, City Attorney

BUSINESS ITEMS

REVIEW AND AMEND CRA 3 YEAR PLAN GOALS.

Members reviewed 3 year plan goals. CRA Executive Director Amanda Rodriguez stated she spoke to Visit Gainesville about the grant for the billboard.

Discussion on painting a moral. Member Newcomb stated she can talk to a member of her church about doing this or if she knows someone that would paint them.

Dean Davis stated that Larry Behnke painted the moral on his building.

CRA Executive Director Rodriguez spoke of the CRA helping organizations with events. Mayor Weller spoke of coming up with a list of events we may suggest.

CRA Executive Director Rodriguez stated she is meeting with Camp Kalaqua next week about putting out our city brochure.

Discussion on the sidewalks downtown.

Dean Davis stated that going back to parallel parking would double the size of the street. Encouraged that we go back to parallel parking. Spoke of the need for cigarette butt garbage receptacle.

Discussion on the Rails to Trails. Mayor Weller gave an overview of the rail bank process. Suggested that the CRA explore the cost for putting, at least, in the CRA area asphalt down.

SET DESIGNATED GRANT APPLICATION DEADLINES AND AWARD DATES. CHANGE FROM AWARDING GRANTS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR TO GRANTING AWARDS FOUR TIMES A YEAR. THE SUGGESTED FOUR TIMES FOR AWARDING GRANTS ARE NOVEMBER, FEBRUARY, MAY, AND AUGUST. COMPLETE GRANT APPLICATIONS WOULD BE DUE TEN DAYS PRIOR TO THE AWARD DATES.

CRA Executive Director Rodriguez stated, after speaking with past applicants and recipients of grant funds, she would like to have set dates to award the grant funds from the CRA. She stated this would assist us in making sure we have all proper documentation and applicants do not feel rushed.

Member Weller stated she was not sure what way would work best, but we can try.

Member Newcomb spoke of some projects which received grant funds being completed and others not. CRA Executive Director Rodriguez stated that there was a disconnect and there were some that did not know they had been awarded the grant funds.

CRA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR IS SEEKING DIRECTION FOR THE TEN YEAR PLAN. A TIME-LINE NEEDS TO BE ESTABLISHED DETAILING WHAT ENTITIES WILL COMPLETE THE DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE PLAN AND WHEN THE DIFFERENT PARTS NEED TO BE COMPLETED.

CRA Executive Director Rodriguez advised that she had contacted the NCFRPC and they were unaware that we had a plan that needed to be completed. They did state that they would help us with it. Ms. Rodriguez advised she had also spoken with the County and we needed to have this submitted by June 2016, and would need to have it to them in enough time to have it reviewed.

Discussion on having a workshop for ten year plan.

Consensus to have the Executive Director get with Planning Board and then get with the City Clerk to Contact all the CRA members to schedule a workshop.

SET DEFINITION FOR FACADE AS IT RELATES TO CRA ADMINISTERED GRANTS.

CRA Executive Director Rodriguez advised of the confusion on what the definition of Façade is when citizens are applying for the grant funds. She stated she gave, to each of the CRA Members, samples of the definition for Façade that other cities use.

Discussion on what the definition should incorporate.

Ms. Rodriguez states she has written down the suggestions and asked that they email her any other information that they would like incorporated and she will put together a definition to bring back to the board.

UPDATES ON PAST, PRESENT, AND POSSIBLE FUTURE CRA ADMINISTERED GRANTS.

CRA Executive Director Rodriguez gave an overview of past, present and possible future CRA Grants.

Teresa Martin asked if she is in the CRA District. Member Weller stated no. Ms. Martin stated she lives in a very historic home and maybe it could be considered. Chair Williams states the CRA District is different than the Historic District. Ms. Martin asks about the Rails to Trails. Member Weller states the county has applied to rail bank the railroad tracks.

Attorney Johnson advised that Carol Westmorland, Director of the Florida Redevelopment Association, is coming to give a presentation on CRA's at the City of Newberry on Monday evening at 5:30 p.m. ; she would love to have all of you come out. Attorney Johnson stated it is great for new information and/or a refresher on CRA's. She also advises there will be a question and answer period at the end of the presentation.

Member Weller requested that we schedule CRA meetings on a separate day from Commission Meetings. She states that we have a member that cannot be here when they are at 5:00 p.m.

Member Weller stated that the front of Hair and Nail Depot, Ms. Blankenship's property, looks great.

Teresa Martin made a recommendation that the Main Street USA program has micro grants available to help with utilities to help keep their doors open. She states maybe that could help our down to thrive.

Motion Member Weller to adjourn.

Second Vice Chair Evans.

Chair Williams adjourned the meeting at 6:12 p.m.