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HIGH SPRINGS
COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY MEETING
MINUTES
November 18, 2014

Meeting called to order by Chair Weller 6:00 p.m.

Invocation by Chair Weller.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call:

- Chair Weller – Present
- Vice Chair Barnas – Present
- Member Bass - Present
- Member Gestrin – Present
- Member Jamison – Absent
- Member Sylvia Newcomb – Present
- Member Williams – Present-left at

Staff Present:

- Ed Booth, Executive Director/City Manager
- Angela Stone, Assistant City Clerk
- Courtney Johnson, City Attorney

BUSINESS ITEMS

REVIEW AND CONFIRM RANKING OF CRA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR APPLICANTS.

Chair Weller stated that the top pick overall was Amanda Rodriguez, according to the tally.

**Motion Vice Chair Barnas that we accept the tally for candidates.
Second Member Williams.**

Motion Carried 5-1 with Member Gestrin opposing.

OFFER POSITION TO NUMBER ONE RANKED APPLICANT.

Chair Weller offered Ms. Rodriguez the position, and asked if she would accept. Ms. Rodriguez stated she would.

Chair Weller asked when she could begin. Ms. Rodriguez stated any time after December 1, 2014.

Chair Weller asked if she has walked through the city. Ms. Rodriguez stated she has driven through the city a few times but was familiar with the city.

Vice Chair Barnas advised that he will be leaving and introduced Gloria James. He stated he will make himself available anytime. He stated that he has been involved and will have a lot of information.

REVIEW AND APPROVE CRA FACADE GRANT AGREEMENT.

Chair Weller questioned the wording regarding the lease being transferred. Attorney Johnson stated that should be out. She stated this issue has come up before whether we wanted to impose anything on selling of the residential property as we do on businesses. She was not sure if we wanted to enforce this.

Member Gestrin questioned why we have that kind of string. She states she feels it is not necessary. She thinks this is another unnecessary government control. She states that you are controlling someone's life.

Member Newcomb spoke of past issues regarding recipients not producing records when asked.

Attorney Johnson spoke of the conditions in the applications.

Member Gestrin states she understands the intention, but it is trying to micromanage. She states what is being described is an element of trust. She states she objects to the job description of the CRA Director as there is a transfer of power.

Member Barnas asked, of the members that object to this, what they suggest. Member Gestrin stated take it out. Attorney Johnson stated there is no statutory requirement to have this.

Member Barnas states he thinks it is a good provision.

Chair Weller stated that they could come in and flip the property.

Member Williams states it is not to put a hindrance on someone; it is to not have people take money and then make a profit.

Member Bass states that she does not think you should hold anyone accountable who wants to improve their property within the CRA District. She thinks that you are penalizing them. She states that she is speaking for the businesses in this town.

Chair Weller states it is still tax payer dollars. She states that as board we have a responsibility to protect what is happening.

Member Gestrin asked how this is to be enforced and who is going to oversee.

Vice Chair Barnas stated we need to move forward with this. He wants this to get started.

Motion Vice Chair Barnas to approve the Façade Grant as written.

Second Member Williams

Motion Fails 3-3 with Member Bass, Member Newcomb, and Member Gestrin Opposing.

Motion Member Williams to approve the Facade Grant with the removal of section 2.4 from the agreement.

Second Vice Chair Barnas.

Member Newcomb spoke of the agreement stating that the resident needs to communicate with the director and it should be that the director should have to report to the board.

Attorney Johnson stated that the director handles the problems with applications, the director can give you advice and then they come before the board. She states that it is more of an issue of what your expectations of the executive director are and, this could be addressed in the employment contract.

Member Gestrin states she does not want us to rush through things to get it started. She talks of transparency. She speaks of the job description not mentioning the commission.

Vice Chair Barnas states that we can move this forward, see how this works and make changes down the road.

Motion carried 6-0.

REVIEW AND APPROVE CONTRACT WITH NUMBER ONE RANKED APPLICANT.

Attorney Johnson asked if the one year term was acceptable. Consensus for a one year term.

Attorney Johnson gave an overview of the contract.

Member Bass asked about the CRA owned property. Attorney Johnson states the CRA does not currently own property, but can own property.

Discussion on an evaluation and time frame of such.

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Consensus to have an annual evaluation but leave it open since the director is new.

Member Gestrin states she is still concerned that the commission not being mentioned and there is not accountability.

Member Newcomb states that her understanding is that it is made up of the commission and two business representatives from High Springs. Chair Weller stated it is set up that way by Ordinance.

Member Gestrin suggested Member Newcomb go back and listen to the last two meetings and how they are thinking of not having commissioners on the board. Chair Weller stated that is not correct and explained the issue.

**Motion Vice Chair Barnas to change the wording from 6 months to annual evaluation in Section 4.
Second Member Bass.
Motion carried 6-0.**

Discussion on removing the wording of across the board cost of living increase if given to regular city employees. Consensus to remove.

Chair Weller states the language for retirement should reference FRS.

Member Bass spoke of the CRA Director's need of a city cell phone.

Member Gestrin states that she thinks we are rushing the contract.

Consensus to supply director with city cell phone.

Mr. Booth spoke of the need to join the FLC League of Cities CRA.

**Motion Vice Chair Barnas to accept contract for the Executive Director with changes made.
Second Member Williams.
Motion passes 5-1 with Member Gestrin opposing.**

Chair Weller thanked Vice Chair Barnas and Member Gestrin for serving on the board and looking forward to their input in the future.

Mr. Booth stated lights are up, banners are being put out and we will sweep the downtown. Friday is the Tree Lighting; but we will light the small tree as the new one does not have lights on it as there is not power at this location yet.

**Motion Vice Chair Barnas to adjourn.
Second Member Williams
Chair Weller adjourned the meeting at 7:18 p.m.**