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**HIGH SPRINGS  
COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY  
MINUTES  
AUGUST 3, 2017**

Meeting called to order by Chair Jones at 6:56 p.m.

Invocation by Member James

Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL:**

Chair Linda Jones- Present  
Vice Chair Byran Williams- Absent  
Member Scott Jamison- Present  
Member Jason Evans-Absent  
Member Gloria James-Present

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Amanda Rodriguez, CRA Executive Director  
Angela Stone, Assistant City Clerk  
Courtney Johnson, City Attorney

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

**Motion Member James to approve the agenda as presented.  
Second Member Jamison.  
Motion carried 3-0.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Motion Member James to approve the minutes of June 1, 2017 and July 6, 2017 CRA Meetings.  
Second Member Jamison.  
Motion carried 3-0.**

**BUSINESS ITEMS**

**MUSEUM ON MAIN STREET PRESENTATION.**

Christina Young, Museum on Main Street, gave a presentation on the Museum on Main Street Program from last July & August. Ms. Young presented the CRA with a memory book of the Waterways Exhibit.

**DISCUSS OBLIGATING \$200,000 IN CRA FUNDS TO THE RAILS TO TRAILS PROJECT.**

Sue Weller spoke of the County Commission deciding not to fund the acquisition of the Rail Corridor. She stated that the county will be reconsidering and hearing from citizens on this project again next Tuesday, August 8, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. She stated the county would like to see \$500,000.00 from the City of High Springs for the acquisition. She stated that the City Manager of High Springs has stated the City itself is willing to give \$300,000 of Wild Spaces Money, and she is requesting that the CRA obligate \$200,000.00 toward this project.

Ms. Weller spoke of her concerns of not acquiring this corridor.

Member Jamison asked if it is a lump sum payment that would need to be allocated this fiscal year. Jeff Hayes, Alachua County Transportation Manager, states there would need to be an Interlocal between the County, City and CRA in regards to the money. He stated the County may be willing to put the money up front at closing to close the deal, if there was an interlocal to reflect the reimbursement over time.

Member Jamison stated that we have obligated the Wild Spaces Money already to the High Springs Spring project. Attorney Johnson stated you are able to bond out your Wild Spaces Money. Mr. Hayes stated that the County also plans on bonding money for projects within the County.

Mr. Hayes stated the support of the City and CRA is a big element in closing the deal with the County.

Member Jamison asked the benefit to the city for investing in the acquisition of this corridor. Mr. Hayes explains that they have been working to get this trail put on the State Map, the priority trails map through the Greenways and Trails Network, which is a key element to getting State funds to help construct the paths. He states it will bring visitors and give them different ways to recreate.

Kristin Young, Vice President of Citizens for Active Transportation, spoke of the economic importance of the trails. She spoke of an economic study done on the trails in Orange County and she gave statistics on the benefit to that community.

Mrs. Weller stated she thinks we need to look at this as a future vision.

Member Jamison asked the difference between agenda items two and three. Mrs. Weller stated that they were the same. CRA Director Rodriguez stated that this agenda item was put on the agenda without her notice and because she does not have any information on this she cannot recommend this. She stated she has no documentation on what the \$200,000.00 would get. She stated that she has been speaking to the County and was unaware that they were requesting the CRA to put up this amount of money at this time. She states that we would have to designate all the CRA revenue for next year and cut all the rest.

Mr. Hayes spoke of the value of the property that is located within the CRA.

Attorney Johnson stated, that if this is something the CRA wanted to do, we would have to have the caveat that we need to confirm that the CRA can help purchase property that includes property that is outside of the CRA and is not an asset of the CRA.

Mr. Hayes stated the initial hesitation of the County Commission is that they are taking Wild Spaces funds from other projects within the county.

Chair Jones stated that there are two members missing from this meeting, and we cannot get their feelings on this.

Member James speaks of her concern with having to make this decision so quickly. Mrs. Weller stated that in the letter you could put that you would be in support and mention your caveats and how you would be willing to pay the county the money.

CRA Director Rodriguez stated we have no firm numbers on this.

Member Jamison stated we would need to check with the Finance Director about the purchase of the Springs property

Member Jamison stated that we could do a letter in support, but we need to have things clarified first.

Attorney Johnson stated that she thinks that someone from the board and commission should be present at the county meeting.

CRA Director Rodriguez stated that the County Staff should be communicating better because she did not know anything about this. She has strong reservations against this.

Member Jamison stated that this investment is a better benefit than paying for windows for a home or painting a home or business. Member Jamison spoke of his concern with the money from the City with no Commission Meeting before Tuesday. The City Manager would not be able to obligate the money from the City without Commission approval.

Attorney Johnson stated that there was an approved project list for Wild Spaces, if an amount is earmarked then the City Manager could write a letter stating that.

**Motion Member Jamison to authorize the CRA to write a letter of support of the Rails to Trails Acquisition, dependent upon property ownership and financial questions and obligations being answered.**

**Second Member James.**

**Motion carried 3-0.**

## **DISCUSSION ON ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY FOR THE RAILS TO TRAILS PROJECT.**

Chair Jones stated this item is the same as the previous item, so we will move to the next item.

## **REVIEW AND CONSIDER PROPOSED 2017/2018 CRA BUDGET.**

CRA Director Rodriguez presented the proposed 2017/2018 CRA Budget.

Discussion on salary increase and one-time payments. Consensus for onetime payment only. CRA Director Rodriguez stated she will get with Finance Director and correct.

**Motion Member James to recommend this budget to the city with the suggested changes.  
Second Member Jamison.  
Motion carried 3-0.**

**DISCUSS AND CONSIDER DESIGNATING THE FARMER'S MARKET AS A CRA PROGRAM.**

CRA Director Rodriguez stated the Farmer's Market Manager needs to be an employee and for her to supervisor the manager the Farmer's Market must be designated as a CRA Program.

Member Jamison stated he is not ready to do this at this time; we need to have the City's view point and the other members here.

**Motion Member James to table this item until next CRA Meeting.  
Second Member Jamison.  
Motion carried 3-0.**

**DISCUSS AND CONSIDER APPROVING PURSUIT OF TOURISM PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT GRANT FOR MUSIC IN THE PARK.**

CRA Director Rodriguez stated this grant is a grant by the County to help promote bringing out of county visitors to our county, and she is requesting permission to apply for the grant. She adds that this would pay for marketing for Music in the Park.

Consensus to have the CRA Director Rodriguez apply for the grant.

**UPDATE ON JAMES PAUL PARK STAIRS/RAMP PROJECT.**

CRA Director Rodriguez stated there has been some confusion between the contractor and CRA on this project. She stated that he thought he could build a ramp there instead of stairs. She stated that they met with the contractor and explained it to him that it needed to be stairs. She stated that the ramp that was built was not ADA compliant, so the ramp has since been removed.

CRA Director Rodriguez stated that going forward it would need to be ADA compliant ramp and not steps. She stated that she has been working with an engineer on this, and there are two renderings in the packet of how the ramp could be.

Member James asked why we did not do this before we started the project the first time. CRA Director Rodriguez stated that there was some confusion with the Building Department and CRA at that time.

**CHAIR REPORT.**

CRA Chair Jones stated she has nothing to report.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT.**

Advised that two grants closed, Hart Strings and Wisteria Cottage. The others façade grants are coming along nicely.

Advised that the Quilt Murals are complete and will be delivered next week.

Advised that the Folk in the Springs will be September 17<sup>th</sup>.

Advised that there is a meeting with the County August 17<sup>th</sup> to discuss the Rails to Trails project, this is a staff meeting.

Advised that our CRA Presentation to the County Commission is on August 22<sup>nd</sup> to give an update and give our draft budget, as part of our Interlocal with the county.

Advised that she has been asked to present at the Farmers Market Convention in Orlando on September 11.

Advised that she and the attorney will be going to Daytona Beach October 17 to give a presentation.

Advised that she will be out on vacation next week and Labor Day week.

She is requesting that the next CRA meeting be moved to September 21<sup>st</sup> and recommends that there not be an October meeting.

**Motion Member James to adjourn.**

**Chair Jones adjourned the meeting at 8:18 p.m.**