



Planning & Development

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**NORTHEAST COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

Martin Luther King Memorial Center, 803 Florida Avenue, Mount Dora, FL 32757

Tuesday, April 12, 2022 - 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

Having been duly noticed as required by law, Ms. Rowe, Chair of the Northeast CRA Advisory Committee called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL, MOMENT OF SILENCE & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PRESENT: Rona Rowe, Chair; Lillie Taylor; Lynn Tacher; Stevie Harley; Ozell Ward

ABSENT: Gerry Guenther

CITY STAFF: Adam Sumner, *Deputy Planning & Development Director*; Faith Gibbs, *Administrative Coordinator*; Cpl. Mike Garcia

III. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Discussion:

Pastor Bobby Rowe shared that he previously planned a community cleanup the same weekend as the Mount Dora Craft Festival and due to bad weather, he will reschedule it and let the committee know of the new date and time.

Lizi Bourassa and Matthew Dery are new to the community and are attending the meeting for the first time as encouraged by the mayor to get to know everyone and are excited to get involved.

IV. APPROVAL OF March 8, 2022 MINUTES

Mr. Ward motioned to approve the March 8, 2022 minutes. Ms. Tacher seconded the motion and all approved unanimously.

V. PROJECT UPDATES

1. Home Repair Grant Update Discussion

Mr. Sumner had a meeting last week with Habitat for Humanity to find out ways to better serve the community and partner with Habitat. Habitat has the opportunity of a major federal grant this summer that they will be proceeding with an application for. At the next meeting, a resolution for consideration supporting this grant application will be brought before the committee. Due to the increasing costs of materials, the resolution would propose an increase in matching funds from the current \$15,000 to \$25,000. The committee was asked for their input and feedback on going to the governing board to request this increase. Several committee members agreed with the increase as the cost of everything has gone up and believe that the city council members would agree.

Mr. Ward motioned to recommend increasing the cap from \$15,000 to \$25,000. Ms. Tacher seconded the motion and all approved unanimously.

2. Resource and Recreation Center Update

The sign has been installed on the Old Public worksite location as the future home of the Community Resource and Recreation Center. The RFP to hire an architect and engineering firm is on the street and closes at the end of the month. For the last month, Mr. Sumner has met with resource providers such as Lake Tech and others who have agreed to volunteer services, programs, and staff in the resource center to service and assist those in the community. After meeting with providers, some fine details need to be added to the center to meet the needs of the community, making it more functional and cost-efficient. The committee asked if another sign with a picture of what the building looks like. At the end of phase one, an additional sign with a picture of the building will be installed.

3. Budget Update

The financing software errors have been fixed and the committee was provided with most current the expenditure and revenue reports generated. The capital projects have not been updated, as Mr. Sumner's access is currently being updated. The big-ticket item for capital projects is the design for the resource and recreation center with a little over \$500,000 to get through that process. Funds are also available for land acquisition for redevelopment. Due to changes in state law, the city is reimbursed by the CRA for services provided by city employees to the CRA. The revenue was higher than projected bringing in \$745,000. There's an expectancy of revenue increase, however, a 5% increase is what will be budgeted. Staff will begin inputting drafted budgets into the system as they are due by the end of April. Home repair is a project that needs to continue to be funded, with a budget of \$200,000 for next year with no negative impact on anything else in the budget. Ms. Tacher asked if any economic development programs for the Northeast were similar to the downtown CRA. Mr. Sumner explained that the Northeast has the same programs and funds in the budget for them; façade grants for businesses on Grandview and high-value job grants. Mr. Harris asked about the land owned on Clayton Street. Mr. Sumner explained that the city owns 1.9 acres and once surveyed it can be re-platted for approximately seven buildable lots; mixed of duplexes and single-family homes. Mr. Sumner encouraged the committee to contact him with any input on the budget and will look into business grants that can be adopted by October.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Sumner shared that he has been promoted to Deputy Planning Director, CRA Manager and the Code Compliance Manager, he is in the process of hiring a new code compliance inspector. In addition, the Planning and Development Department has hired a new Senior Planner; Michele Janiszewski who started on Monday.

Mrs. Rowe asked for updates on the Cauley Lott Park renovations. Mr. Sumner said that due to rising material costs and the expiration of a grant that the Parks Department applied for. Parks has been awarded a new grant. Mr. Sumner will get an update and inform the committee. Ms. Tacher asked about climbing equipment that will be lost at the playground. Mr. Sumner said that he is unaware of this, as it is a Parks project, however, he will request that parks staff attend the next meeting to give the committee an update.

Mr. Rowe asked about the summer work project. Mr. Sumner said that the contract goes to the city council next week. The summer program is geared toward teens between the ages of 16 and 19 years old, providing jobs of 30 hours per week and paying \$14.00 per hour.

Corporal Michael Garcia shared that the major crime in the Northeast District has not risen at all. Within the last few weeks burglaries to cell phone stores in Eustis. Although this did not occur in Mount Dora, due to the proximity, Mount Dora Police will be assisting. In regards to the T&N Market case, 14 search warrants have been issued. This weekend, there will be a community group meeting at Cedric's market with a youth group at 1 pm. In addition, last Friday a warrant was served by Mount Dora's SWAT team where weed and cocaine were recovered. The police department is continually working to ensure the city is safe.

Councilman Nate Walker thanked the committee for their service and encouraged the committee to attend the council meetings so that their voice is heard in the meeting and on record. In addition, Bethel will have a clothing giveaway on Saturday from 11 am to 2 pm.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Ward moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Taylor proceeded to adjourn the meeting at 7:04 p.m.

*Rona Rowe, Chair
Northeast CRA Advisory Committee*

*Faith Gibbs
Administrative Coordinator*