

**CITY OF
MOUNT DORA, FLORIDA
CRA ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES**



August 3, 2022

Call to Order

Having been duly noticed as required by law, the August 3, 2022 meeting of the Mount Dora Community Redevelopment Agency Committee was called in order by Chair, Mr. Berndt at 5:30 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: David Berndt, Jake Guenther, Andrea Lothar, Akhtar Hussain (5:32 p.m.), Jack Whittaker, Jay Smith, Robert Paonessa (via Zoom)

Absent:

City Staff: Adam Sumner, *Deputy Planning Director & CRA Manager*; Misty Sommer, *Economic Development Manager*; Faith Gibbs; *Clerk Administrative Coordinator*; Whitney Scott; *Planning Administrative Coordinator*.

Public Comment Period

None

Approval of the June 1, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Guenther motioned to approve the minutes for June 1, 2022. Ms. Lothar seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously by voice vote.

Discussion Items

1. Update on Highland Events

Misty Sommer, Economic Development Manager, announced that staff held a Work Session with City Council to reaffirm the Strategic Plan for Economic Development in April. During that discussion, Council expressed the desire to increase the awareness of development/redevelopment opportunities in the Highland Street corridor. One of the ways we plan to accomplish this is through hosting special events in that area. The first event is Uptown Saturday Night on August 20th, from 4-8 pm at 850 Liberty Avenue (Intersection of Highland Street & Liberty Avenue next to Eden Abbey Brewing). Liberty Street will be closed to vehicular traffic, but Highland Street will be unaffected. A band shell tent will be set up in the adjacent parking lot to include live music from the band Blender. Staff contacted Highland Street vendors for participation in food, liquor, and beer sales and exotic cars will be on display. At least one non-competing food truck will be on hand. Promotions will include Eden & Abbey Brewing being featured on iHeart Radio's Beer of the Week during the "Monsters in the Morning" segment. The City of Mount Dora has

taken over the Bicycle Festival from the Chamber. October 1st and October 2nd will be the 47th annual event. Three rides will start at 850 Liberty Avenue and one mountain bike ride sponsored by Adrenaline Bike Works. Cyclemountdora.com is now live for registration. There are also funds in the next fiscal year for a future event, perhaps a BBQ event. CSX officially responded to Lake County's offer to purchase the railroad bed for Segments 1 and 5 of the Wekiva Trail.

2. Code Complaints within CRA Boundary / Sidewalk Sales Ordinance

Mr. Adam Sumner, Deputy Planning Director, and CRA Manager announced the ongoing issue with merchants displaying merchandise on the sidewalks which impede pedestrian walkways. After reviewing the current ordinance with the city attorney, the current language has loopholes. City staff has reviewed how other cities deal with similar issues and found that the City Winter Garden banned all sidewalk displays except two weekends annually set by the City Council with free advertising. The committee's feedback and suggestions were requested. Mr. Smith agreed with Winter Garden's annual sidewalk sales and suggested including a theme in sales. Mr. Lothar suggested limiting retail space. Mr. Sumner said this method was tried for a month and was unsuccessful, and without a change in ordinance language, the city cannot regulate it. Mr. Guenther requested documentation of formal complaints and photos be provided to the committee and does not want to get involved if the majority of complaints are between business owners. Ms. Lothar suggested regulating merchandise table sizes and space. Mr. Berndt questioned if this is a CRA issue. Mr. Sumner explained that it is a Code, but since the downtown CRA is within the committee's district, suggestions to bring to the city council. Mr. Hussain said more businesses are complaining about one another and suggested business certificates of liability insurance be attached to the city in the same way as the outdoor certificate permits are issued to businesses.

3. Update Revenue Projections / Budget Process Update

Mr. Sumner provided the committee with the budget report. The street sweeper is no longer included in the CRA budget and will be funded by the Stormwater Department. Although there are no new buildings within the CRA boundary, the projected revenue increase is up 11% from last year and could possibly increase more. The overall CRA budget and projects have not changed. A final budget workshop will be held in September. Ms. Lothar asked about nonmandatory operating expenses and who approved them. Mr. Sumner said that the items have to be in the plan, in the CRA budget, otherwise it can not be funded with CRA dollars. Expenses up to \$5,000 are approved by Mr. Sumner, the City Manager, Patrick Comiskey, approves expenses of up to \$50,000, and expenses of \$50,000 and over are approved by the City Council. Committee members Guenther and Lothar questioned the engineering and consulting costs. Mr. Whittaker requested a more itemized budget. Staff will provide what the state law requires the budgeting reports to look like. Mr. Guenther requested a copy of the state adoption law be provided to the committee. Mr.

Sumner explained the costs of the parking study design costs which were approved by the city council. Mr. Smith asked where the committee's main priorities and focus should be. Mr. Whittaker suggested the committee focus on the Highland District as a priority and getting the corridor into the downtown district. The committee discussed parking plan suggestions which will be placed on next month's agenda. Mr. Guenther requested reports of parking violations from the police department be provided to the committee.

Announcement of next scheduled meeting date - September 7, 2022

Adjournment

Mr. Guenther motioned to adjourn and Mr. Hussain seconded the motion. All approved unanimously by voice vote. There being no further business, Mr. Berndt adjourned the meeting at 6:12 PM.

*David Berndt, Chair
CRA Advisory Committee*

*Faith Gibbs
Administrative Coordinator*

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