

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



**December 13, 2022**

**Call to Order**

Having been duly noticed as required by law, Mrs. Rowe, Chair of the Northeast CRA Advisory Committee called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

**Roll Call, Moment of Silence & Pledge of Allegiance**

**Present:** Rona Rowe, Chair; Lillie Taylor, Stevie Harley, Ozell Ward

**Absent:** Rosalyn Harris, Lynn Tacher

**City Staff:** Adam Sumner, *Deputy Planning Director & Northeast CRA Manager*; Faith Gibbs, *Clerk Administrative Coordinator*; Officer Kenneth Lopez; Councilman Nathaniel Walker

**Public Comment Period**

Councilman Mr. Nate Walker invited the community to come out to the Frank Brown Sports Complex on Saturday, December 17, 2022 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. for the Northeast Community Holiday Party. This is a family event with toys, books, games, music and food for the entire family to enjoy.

**Approval of Minutes of September 13, 2022, and October 25, 2022**

*Mr. Ward motioned to approve the September 13, 2022 minutes. Ms. Taylor seconded the motion and all approved unanimously.*

*Mr. Ward motioned to approve the October 25, 2022 minutes. Ms. Taylor seconded the motion and all approved unanimously.*

**Discussion Items**

1. Public Input on Resource and Recreation Center

Mr. Sumner explained the latest site plan, layout, and box diagram for the resource and recreation center. The building is slightly bigger but the budget and cost are the same. The gym was almost too small and had to be bigger to accommodate, from 26,00 sqft to 29,900 sq with 100 parking spaces. Items previously discussed in the Northeast CRA Advisory meetings are in the concept plan. The concept plan was discussed with all city staff directors and with resource providers for functionality. Community businesses provided letters of support; one from The Boys and Girls Club for the grant application. Their staff is reviewing the concept plan and is

providing feedback. One challenge of maximizing space is using customer service windows and resource office space. Customer service windows will be placed in the three western resource offices. There will be a privacy window that can be closed when the office is being used and the privacy window can be opened for the use of a customer service window, saving on the design cost, allowing for potentially seven offices. A child watch area with interest shared with a local company to donate skills, furniture, equipment, and technology. New federal design criteria state that a facility of this size must include a maternity room. The north part of the building consists of the technology and computer lab with an opportunity with a national company to apply for a grant next summer. The banquet hall/flex space with the current layout with a stage and round tables seat 200 people, for wedding seating for up to 300. The kitchen design has had input on the design from Lake Tech and the high school to meet the needs of a fully functional commercial and teaching kitchen. Additional storage has been added for the indoor gym and outdoor field storage. The shaded gray area allows for a future phase of up to 7000 sqft when needed. Utility services have already accommodated the space now, which does not have to happen in the future. The facility has open glass to draw people into the building. A major piece of the building is public art and ties in with the history of the community. The blank wall will feature public art and a concrete pad with possible public art sculptures. The exterior gym wall coated in a material that provides texture with geometric designs from African art and murals of people from the community. On the last page, the main front door is a bright open space.

#### **Public Input:**

Pastor Bobby Rowe stated that the facility doesn't have a laundry room that could be used for the homeless, child watch items, kitchen items, and the maternity room. Officer Kenneth Lopez stated crime prevention through design for security purposes to look for ambush points with proper lighting. Cost-effectinate - wall caps to illumate areas like dumpsters and mirrors to view behind the dumpsters. Councilman Mr. Nate Walker stated his excitement about the project. While the facility might not be exact in the initial stage, it is something that will be in the community for many years to come. He encouraged the committee to get support and get the community involved and the need for cultural art. Mr. Walker thanked the committee and city staff.

Pearlie Mae Woods asked if jobs would be available for those in the community. To which Mr. Adams said yes. Pastor Rowe asked staff to explain the flow and functions of the building to the public. Mr. Summner explained the layout and flow of the building with an explanation of the main entrance and all the rooms, their functions, and layouts. Mr. Ward asked about an additional designated number of handicapped parking spaces. Staff has already had the discussion and there is enough room to add more. Mr. Ward spoke about the retention pond and would like it to be a recreational pond, providing other activities for the community. Mr. Sumner will figure out the costs, and likes the idea. Mr. Shonk is trying to do walking trails with exercise stations in all the parks.

Mrs. Rowe asked about noise control with everyone coming through the same door.

Mr. Sumner looked at a facility in Orlando with new soundproofing technology that is cost-effective. The noise from the hallway can not be heard in any other part of the building. Pastor Rowe asked staff to explain the multiple functions of the gym. Mr. Sumner explained that the traditional basketball court has a drop wall for one side to be a half-court and the other side to be another activity to maximize use. Gym seating has a line of bleachers that goes around the room in a horseshoe. The Parks department has additional portable bleachers for more seating. Lizi Bourassa wants to ensure that retention ponds with water are treated to prevent the mosquito population for residents and loves the exterior and interior art designs.

Danielle Delaine suggested, in addition to the laundry area, that space be designated for donations and also the outdoor space for a community garden. The committee members and staff agreed that there is ample outdoor space for a community garden. Pastor Rowe requested carts to assist people in loading and unloading; even for MLK. Mr. Sumner said that Lake Tech had already made that suggestion.

Mr. Sumner shared that the state has split the grant into two separate applications. The new submission for a multi-use facility grant date is February 2023. This new date allows for additional data collection and letters of support.

### **Other Business**

#### **1. Approval of the Northeast CRA Meeting dates for 2023**

Mr. Sumner requested feedback from the committee as to next year's meeting schedule and will further discuss it in January once the new committee member has been appointed to the Northeast CRA Advisory Committee.

Mr. Sumner spoke about his meeting with CareerSource on December 12, 2022, and explained the importance of the success of the 2023 program. Otherwise, staff would not recommend approval to the city council. Beginning January 3rd, CareerSource staff will visit Mount Dora High School twice a week throughout the school year to begin recruiting students for the summer internship program. It is their goal to have 70 students from Lake county participate with at least 35 from the City of Mount Dora. The 4-week summer program is geared toward teens 15 - 19 years. While 15-year-olds will attend career paths, 16-19-year-olds will participate in internships. Mr. Ward asked if there was a yearlong program for teens. Mr. Sumner said that there is already one in place with a current intern since this past summer.

Officer Lopez - crime reports update with the community with citywide comparison from 11/30/21 - 11/30/22. The Eustis police department was not included as their system does not allow access to their information. Mr. Ward thanked Officer Lopez for the comparison as this is the closest report requested by the committee. In

comparison to the rest of Mount Dora and the county, it shows that the Northeast community isn't as bad as what is said. Questioned drug offense information. There are the same enforcement standards as in other communities.

Officer Lopez - Provided an update on crime statistics and community policing efforts.

**Announcement of next scheduled meeting date: January 10, 2023**

**Adjournment**

***Ms. Taylor moved to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Ward seconded the motion. All approved unanimously by voice vote. There being no further business, Mrs. Rowe adjourned the meeting at 7:29 PM.***

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*Rona Rowe, Chair  
Northeast CRA Advisory Committee*

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*Faith Gibbs  
Administrative Coordinator*