CITY OF
MOUNT DORA, FLORIDA

NE CRA ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES

September 12, 2023

Call to Order

Having been duly noticed as required by law, Mrs. Rona Rowe, Chair of the Northeast CRA Advisory Committee called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Roll Call, Moment of Silence & Pledge of Allegiance

Present: Rona Rowe, Lillie Taylor, Lynn Tacher, Stevie Harley, Rosalyn Harris, Bryan Belk, Ozell Ward (Mr. Ward was present via phone call).

Absent:

City Staff: Adam Sumner, Deputy Planning Director & Northeast CRA Manager; Catherine Hutcheson, Clerk Administrative Coordinator; Chris Carson Special Events Manager; Anetta Barton Budget Director; Michael Gibson Chief of Police; and Officer Kenneth Lopez.

Public Comment Period

Ms. Rowe in absence of Pastor Rowe gave notice of a community cleanup held by Mount Dora High School FCA Club September 30 Community Cleanup event starting at Colley Lott Park at 10am.

Approval of Minutes for July 11, 2023:

Motion by Mr. Belk, seconded by Ms. Harris, to approve the minutes. All approved unanimously 7-0.

Discussion Items

Budget Update:
Mr. Sumner discussed the budget vote that council requested to bring back to the board due to the lack of quorum from August's meeting. For the opportunity for a discussion and approval by the committee.
Mr. Sumner stated that the budget can no longer be amended as it had already been approved by City Council on September 6, 2023.

Mr. Sumner gave good news to the Board about revenue increases within the budget.
Further discussion about next year's budget for the Northeast.
Mr. Sumner introduced Ms. Barton, and stated she was available to answer any questions.
Ms. Rowe asked the board members if they had any questions.
Mr. Ward had a question about the budget for next year. If asked if the money was not spent for the rec center would it get re-budgeted back into the account?
Mr. Sumner responded that it would be re-budgeted into the construction account and anything that is not spent will be added to a line item in the Northeast budget.
Mr. Ward asked if that would need to be re-voted on.
Mr. Sumner gave a response in the affirmative. He stated it would go back to the full budget process to get re-approved.
Ms. Thatcher asked about the way the budget is categorized, specifically professional services.
Mr. Sumner gave an explanation to the board, with Ms. Barton's input.
Ms. Thatcher questioned the difference between the two budget categories in regards to property causality and auto insurance and if that was in regards to Police.
Mr. Sumner gave an explanation about what comes out of what budget category.
Further discussion on Budget categories and what they cover between Ms. Thatcher, Mr. Sumner and the other Northeast board members.
Ms. Harris questioned the budget category of economic development.
Mr. Sumner stated that is in regards to Grandview Street, the Façade Grant, and Home Repair Grants.
Mr. Sumner went on the further explain that it appeared as though not much money has been spent in that budget category. However, money was spent and needs to be re-adjusted between himself, Ms. Hutcheson, and Ms. Barton.
Ms. Thatcher also questioned the economic development category and what that could be.
Mr. Sumner stated that the explanation he gave previously would be all that would go into that budget. If another program gets adopted it can be funded out of that line item.
Ms. Rowe asked how many homes have been rehabbed within the economic development budget this year.
Mr. Sumner stated he does not know that answer today but he would get that information to them via email.
Mr. Sumner told the board that there are so many applications for home repair grants, more than can be funded next year and Habitat will have to fundraise for the next two years to get them all done.
Further discussion on Habitat for Humanity with the board.
Mr. Ward asked the question to be repeated as he did not hear it clearly.
Ms. Rowe repeated her question, how many homes have been repaired this year.
Mr. Ward asked what the answer was.
Mr. Sumner responded that he would email the board the answer as he did not have the numbers in front of him.
Ms. Harris asked about the Grandview incentives.
Mr. Sumner stated the facade grant and the highways jobs. He stated that he is looking into different kinds of grants to help within that area.
Mr. Ward asked gotten any requests for grants.
Mr. Sumner gave a response to that by saying the he gets a lot of requests for home repair grants but none lately for the businesses. He believes the reason for that is due to the newer businesses and not a lot of vacant spaces. He stated that he believes that is what is needed it more vacant commercial spaces.
Mr. Ward asked what we can do actively for existing businesses to help them improve.

Mr. Sumner stated absolutely yes however, they are limited to the facade grant and High Ways grants but is working on getting a couple more grants.
Ms. Taylor asked if there was a marketing incentive.
Mr. Sumner stated that there are some things that can be done. He gave a recommendation for businesses to meet with SBDC and he can set those meetings up any-time.
Ms. Thatcher asked about SBDC giving presentations about small businesses.
Mr. Sumner stated he would be more than happy to set that up and the resource and rec center will be adding to that.
Further discussion on work force training, business development and telehealth.
Ms. Thatcher asked if a vote had to be brought back to City Council to get more grants.
Mr. Sumner stated that City Council has to approve each program but do not have to do anything to the budget.
Mr. Sumner asked for recommendation of approval.

Motion by Mr. Belk, seconded by Mr. Ward, to approve the budget. All approved unanimously 7-0.

Resource & Recreation Center Update:
Mr. Sumner stated the construction drawings are being started as was talked about in the July meeting.
Mr. Sumner will have more information next month as he has a meeting with the architects and engineer tomorrow, September 13th.
No deviation from the plan, the look and feel remain the same.
Further updates continued until the October meeting.

Public Art Crosswalk with Chris Carson:
Mr. Carson gave an update on the project. The crosswalk that borders Highland Street and Cauley Lott Park.
Mr. Carson stated he advertised that project for about a month and had not received any submissions to date. Due to that he has increased the advertisement and outreach. He is hoping to bring some art submissions to the board so board members can decide on what art work culturally fits the area.
Mr. Carson stated he would be meeting with the Public Works commission in two weeks to provide the same update.
Ms. Thatcher asked how the project was being advertised.
Mr. Carson stated mainly social media.
Ms. Thatcher asked if he had advertised out to UCF or Orlando.
Mr. Carson stated no they had not advertised there. He has no contacts with UCF.
Ms. Harris asked if it was still open for submissions
Mr. Carson stated yes. He further responded to Ms. Thatcher's question by saying they are looking for a local artist.
Ms. Thatcher asked if the local art teacher had sent anything in.
Mr. Carson reiterated that there have been no submissions.
Ms. Thatcher stated that she thought the art teacher would have been interested as she was interested in the "Art in the Alley" program a while ago.
Ms. Thatcher also made a statement about the art not being able to last very long.
Mr. Carson said that was true, anytime you are working with hot cement streets the art will fade over time, about 3-5 years.
Ms. Harris asked about city employee up keep for the art work.

Ms. Rowe asked if the artist would touch it up.
Mr. Carson stated no.
Mr. Ward asked if it was a continuation of the sidewalk art that was started a few years ago.
Mr. Carson was not familiar with that project so did not have an answer.
Mr. Ward asked if this was a new project.
Mr. Carson stated that Mr. Ward could be referring to when they first brought up this project that had to be postponed due to Cauley Lott Park construction.
Ms. Rowe asked about the extension date, what the date now was.
Mr. Carson said end of October.
Mr. Belk asked about the social media platforms.
Mr. Carson stated they had done a lot of Facebook, Next-door, Center for the Arts.
Mr. Belk asked about using flyers in the businesses.
Mr. Carson said no but the shops have been really good about forwarding the emails along.
Ms. Harris asked what the submission criteria was.
Further discussion on the criteria between the board and audience members.

Other Business

Ms. Harris stood at the podium to ask the board about water treatment and if they had discussed it with the community. Gave an update about Hurricane Idelia.
Ms. Taylor announced that on October 28th at 9:30 the Methodist Church will be servicing six homes and a senior citizens' breakfast. Fire department will also be on site to give out flu shots.
Ms. Taylor asked Chief Gibson if Officer Lopez would be available for that. Chief Gibson responded, absolutely.
Mr. Ward asked Mr. Sumner to discuss the Florida Re-development Conference.
Mr. Sumner discussed the Florida Re-development Conference with the board.

Announcement of next scheduled meeting date: October 10, 2023

Mr. Belk will be unable to attend.

Adjournment

Motion by Ms. Harris, seconded by Mr. Belk, to adjourn the Northeast CRA Advisory Committee meeting. All approved unanimously by voice vote. There being no further business, we adjourned the meeting at 6:58 p.m.

Rona Rowe

Rona Rowe, Chair,
Redevelopment Board

Catherine Hutcheson Northeast
Coordinator