



**CITY OF MOUNT DORA  
NORTHEAST COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT  
FEBRUARY 11, 2025 MEETING MINUTES**

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*The City of Mount Dora Northeast Redevelopment Committee met on Tuesday, February 11, 2025, in the Mount Dora City Hall, located at 510 North Baker Street, Mount Dora, Florida to discuss matters pertaining to the Committee.*

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**I. Call to Order**

Having been duly noticed as required by law, the February 11, 2025 meeting of the Mount Dora Northeast CRA was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Rona Rowe, Chair.

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

**Present:** Rona Rowe, Lillie Taylor, Ozell Ward, Juan Perez, Lynn Tacher, Rosalyn Harris

**Absent:** Stevie Harley

**City Staff:** Catherine Hutcheson, Administrative Coordinator; Whitney Scott, Administrative Coordinator; Adam Sumner, Northeast CRA Manager/ Deputy Planning Director; Officer Darrer Graham; Sergeant Nathaniel Warford.

**III. Approval of January 11, 2025 Meeting Minutes**

*MOTION by Mr. Ward, SECONDED by Ms. Taylor, to APPROVE the minutes as thus printed.*

***For:** Rona Rowe, Lillie Taylor, Ozell Ward, Juan Perez, Lynn Tacher, Rosalyn Harris*

***Against:** none*

***Motion Carried:** 6-0*

**IV. Public participation/hearing for non-agenda items**

Mr. Bobbie Rowe discussed the annual egg hunt coming up in April as well as the tutoring program at the MLK program for all subject matters every Monday and Thursdays from 6-7:30PM. He requested more tutors to volunteer and that a hot meal is provided. Discussion on signage.



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**V. Discussion Items**

1.) Election of Chair and Vice Chair

***MOTION by Mr. Ward, SECONDED by Ms. Harris, to keep Mrs. Rowe chair and MOTION by Ms. Harris Seconded by Mr. Perez to keep Mr. Ward vice-chair of the Northeast Community Redevelopment Committee.***

***For: Rona Rowe, Lillie Taylor, Ozell Ward, Juan Perez, Lynn Tacher, Rosalyn Harris***

***Against: none***

***Motion Carried: 6-0***

2.) Witherspoon Lodge Update

Mr. Sumner gave an update on the current lodge situation. He discussed the state of the building and that it was not be feasible in the city's budget to renovate the building. The "owners" of the building are requesting the city to buy the building outright, which will be quicker than eminent domain. The next step is to look into grants to assist the city in renovating the building. Mr. Sumner has offered to go and meet with the leadership team in Jacksonville and is hopeful that can happen soon. He added that council in behind the project 100%.

Mr. Ward discussed the original purpose of the building acquisition and the possibility of moving the building to the Northeast CRA.

Mr. Sumner stated that if they go the route of eminent domain the CRA cannot own the building.

Mr. Ward further discussed memorializing the building to keep the property within the district so that it will not be taken up by someone else in future and what kind of input the committee would like to have or give control to the City.

Ms. Tacher discussed the difference in grant options.

Mr. Sumner stated that we are equally eligible for all grant options.

Discussion on the budget and the need to find the money to budget for the building.

Ms. Harris wanted to make sure that the options are brought back to the committee before a decision is made.

Ms. Tacher discussed making sure that the committee would have control over the grant for African American History and to make sure the money does not go toward another project like in past.



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Mr. Sumer discussed his confusion with Ms. Tacher's statements and further discussed how that will not impact the committee in the future.

Further discussion on future budgeting to buy the lodge from the city in the future.

Ms. Tacher asked if the city can purchase the building from the company, BARTO, in Jacksonville, FL.

Mr. Sumner stated it was possible but was advised to not do so.

The committee members discussed getting more information to make a decision on our budget.

Mr. Ward discussed needing more information before making a decision, to not put the cart before the horse and recommended adding this to March's agenda for further discussion.

Further discussion on the possibility to lease the building.

Mr. Sumner made sure that the Committee still wants the city to buy the building, there was a resounding yes from the members.

Further discussion on the need for the Northeast to be part of the planning process in regards to what the property might be used for.

Mr. Ward requested more background information on the possible contract be brought to March's meeting.

Further discussion on what the contract could hold.

Ms. Harris stated that the Committee wants a say so in what the building will be used for and not be left out of the loop as they always are.

Further discussion on what language should be in the offer.

Discussion on the plans for the building and the importance of being part of it.

***MOTION by Mr. Ward, Seconded by Ms. Taylor, to add the Witherspoon Lodge to the March Agenda.***

***Unanimously APPROVED.***

Councilman Walker encouraged the committee members to come to the next council meeting to express their concerns on this matter as it will be brought up. He stated their position will be forwarded to council by Mr. Sumner.

3.) Lake County Housing Discussion

Lake County was double booked and will come to another future meeting. Mr. Ward requested handouts for that presentation to follow along with. Mr. Sumner stated that handouts will be provided.



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**VI. Other Business**

4.) PD Update

Officer Graham gave the stats from June 2024 to January 2025. He stated the majority of assaults were arguments, nothing serious in the majority.

Mr. Perez discussed the need for statics for the rest of the city compared to the Northeast. Officer Graham stated he does not have that right now and discussed the reason behind that.

MLK Building every 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month Coffee with a Cop for 10:00AM-11:00AM.

Ms. Taylor stated she has not seen officers' visible officers in her area. She stated their needs to be more relationship with the community.

Discussion by Ms. Harris on if there are enough cameras throughout the Northeast to quell crime.

(Audio & Visual Camera cut out after this at 6:55PM)

**VII. Announcement of next scheduled meeting date March 11, 2025**

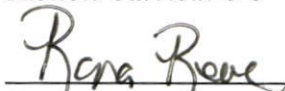
**VIII. Adjournment**

***MOTION by Ms. Harris, SECONDED by Mr. Ward, to ADJOURN the Northeast Community Redevelopment Committee Meeting at 7:06 PM.***

***For: Rona Rowe, Lillie Taylor, Ozell Ward, Lynn Tacher, Juan Perez, Rosalyn Harris***

***Against: none***

***Motion Carried: 6-0***



***Rona Rowe, Chairwoman,  
Northeast CRA***



***Catherine Hutcheson  
Administrative Coordinator***