

**CRA BOARD MEETING**  
**March 7, 2016**  
**7:00 PM**

CRA Board Members Present:

Shirley Groover Bryant, Presiding Officer  
Harold Smith, Chair  
Tamara Cornwell, Vice Chair  
Jonathan Davis  
Brian Williams  
Tambra Varnadore

Staff Present:

Mark Barnebey, City Attorney  
Jeff Burton, CRA Director  
Allen Tusing, Public Works Director  
Scott Tyler, Chief of Police  
Amber Foley, Assistant City Clerk

Mayor Bryant opened the CRA Board meeting at 8:29 p.m.

1. CRA BOARD AGENDA APPROVAL

**Motion: Mr. Davis moved, Mrs. Varnadore seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to approve the March 7, 2016 CRA Board Agenda.**

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

3. CRA CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes: December 7, 2015 and February 1, 2016
- B. Blalock Walters Legal Bills
- C. Resolution 2016-01 Budget Amendment
- D. VFW Property Purchase Agreement

Items 3.C. and 3.D. were removed for discussion.

**Motion: Mr. Davis moved, Mr. Williams seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to approve the March 7, 2016 CRA Board Consent Agenda with the removal of items 3.C. and 3.D.**

3.C Resolution 2016-01 Budget Amendment Discussion:

Mr. Williams asked for further explanation on the budget amendment; what is being amended, added, reduced, removed, etc.

Mr. Burton explained the Community Sustainability Program by the University of South Florida (USF). He said there is an opportunity to have students from USF work with the City/CRA on various projects. The cost of each project, if accepted, is \$10,000 and the students work with the City/CRA for two semesters. The deadline for submittal is March 11<sup>th</sup>. The CRA is budgeting \$100,000 to use if the projects submitted by the CRA are chosen. The CRA may also fund a portion of City projects to the extent they include areas of the CRA. Once USF gets back to the CRA regarding which projects were accepted and how many, the information will be brought forward to the Board.

In regards to the Seahorse Project, Mr. Burton explained that the project is on hold right now until more information is provided. There were federal grants given to the City back in the 1980's, and in order to use the property for the Seahorse Project, the CRA has to find and purchase property that is valued at the same amount as this current property in Riverside Park West to offset the loss of recreation associated

with developing the "Seahorse" property. The property also has to be available for recreational use. Once that occurs, the Seahorse Project property will be "released" and available for the CRA to begin the project.

**Motion: Mr. Davis moved, Mr. Williams seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to approve item 3.C. Resolution 2016-01 Budget Amendment.**

3.D VFW Property Purchase Agreement Discussion:

Attorney Barnebey informed Commission of the following changes made to the agreement since it was published in the agenda:

- Section 12 of the lease, Damage or Destruction, addition that the building must be at least 20 percent damage before the lease will be terminated.
- Add the attorney for the VFW to Section 11.1 of the Agreement
- The VFW is requesting the City to pay for the recording and any closing documents.

Commissioner Varnadore does not agree with requiring the City to pay for all the costs with recording. She opined that the City should pay for the cost of recording the deed but should not be responsible for the documentary stamp tax on the deed.

**Motion: Mrs. Varnadore moved, Mrs. Cornwell seconded, and the motion carried 4-0 to approve the contract with the VFW and include the first two changes but reject the City paying for the documentary stamp tax on the deed. Mr. Williams abstained from voting due to a conflict of interest and will file the appropriate paperwork.**

4. CRA DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Mr. Burton is reviewing the incentive package offered by the CRA. He is working to add an industrial revenue bond incentive, it is a federal tax free bond program for manufacturing. Once the incentives are updated, Mr. Burton will provide that to the CRA Advisory Board and the CRA Board.

5. PRESIDING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

6. CRA BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Mayor Bryant adjourned the meeting at 8:52 p.m.

Minutes approved: April 4, 2016

*James R. Freeman*

James R. Freeman  
City Clerk