

CRA ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
JULY 27, 2023
2:30 PM

BOARD MEMEBERS PRESENT IN CHAMBERS:

Lynn Daniel- Chair
David Washington- Vice Chair

STAFF PRESENT IN CHAMBERS:

Ed Johnson, Interim CRA Director
Cassi Bailey, Assistant City Clerk
Matt Misco, Finance Manager
Jenny Silverio, CRA Administrative/Compliance Coordinator
Scott Tyler, Chief of Police
Mark Barnebey, City Attorney

Chair Daniel called the meeting to order at 2:36 pm.

Ed Johnson presented the Sunrise Award for Connor Park. The CRA was the recipient on June 19th, 2023, from the Florida Brownfields Association. The Sunrise Award aims to promote, recognize, and celebrate innovative, practical, and impactful brownfield redevelopment projects in the state of Florida.

1. CRA ADVISORY BOARD AGENDA APPROVAL

MOTION: Mrs. Daniel moved, Mr. Washington seconded, and the motion carried 2-0 to approve the July 27,2023 CRA Advisory Board Agenda.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT; NONE

3. CONSENT AGENDA

a. Minutes: 07/12/2022

MOTION: Mr. Washington moved, Mrs. Daniel seconded, and the motion carried 2-0 to approve the consent agenda as presented by staff.

4. COMMUNITY POLICING INITIATIVE PLAN FY 2024 BUDGET (S. TYLER)

Chief Tyler gave a presentation that was included in the agenda packet. Chief Tyler recommended the removal of one officer from the CPIP. He stated this is a prudent move and shouldn't have a negative effect. Chief Tyler spoke on the data provided in presentation and advised there is increased crime at Wal Mart and auto thefts. The auto thefts include burglaries to unlocked vehicles with keys being left inside the vehicle.

Chief Tyler discussed the western shift of Part 1 crimes from the area of MLK Park to the business district along 10th Ave West & 8th Ave West and the western CRA boundary.

MOTION: Mrs. Daniel moved, Mr. Washington seconded, and the motion carried 2-0 to approve and recommend the Community Policing Initiative Plan (CPIP) for FY 2024 to the CRA Board

5. FISCAL YEAR 2024 BUDGET DISCUSSION (E. JOHNSON AND M. MISCO)

Mr. Johnson spoke on the requirements in Florida Statutes 163 Part III.

Mrs. Daniel noted she received an email by staff that was generated by the FRA regarding what CRA's can and cannot spend money on. She inquired on other ways the CRA could bring the residents of Palmetto together collectively to interact and improve the quality of relationships within Palmetto, if not able to continue with the 4th of July and Multicultural events.

Mr. Johnson responded that municipalities have been utilizing CRA dollars for social service initiatives. The CRA was not created or intended to address those type of issues. CRA dollars are intended to eliminate the slum and blight conditions and should be infrastructure driven. The legislature passed an amendment in 2019 to the Florida Statute that included specific language on what CRA's could spend funds on. Mr. Johnson suggested making investments with programs, like the Residential Rehab program and the Commercial Façade program. These programs allow and promote interaction with staff, residents and business owners and opens the line of communication.

Mr. Johnson advised another way to improve the community is by appointing Mr. Herman Cadena to the CRA Advisory Board. Mr. Cadena will be able to represent the Hispanic community and promote the programs effectively and provide an understanding of how they work.

Mr. Johnson expressed the CRA is not in the entertainment business and by utilizing the CRA programs, this solves what the legislature wants to move away from with the fairs and festivals.

Mr. Washington inquired if there is a program the CRA can promote itself. Mr. Barnebey advised CRA's are allowed to disseminate information, and fairs and festivals have been used to do so in the past. Since the 2019 legislature amendment, the wording has changed and the CRA needs to comply. It is clear the legislature is coming down on CRA's and even eliminating them. Mr. Barnebey advised that the Mainstreet Program and the City could take over some of the duties. The CRA funds the Mainstreet Program and it's in the beginning stages of forming.

Mrs. Daniel questioned if there are ways to create a tour and dinner for investors, builders, and store owners from other areas to lure them into Palmetto to view the properties owned by the CRA? Mr. Johnson responded that he has been part of something similar before and feels these are the types of things the CRA should be involved with. Mr. Barnebey advised this is a better way of disseminating information and is easier to explain as opposed to the fairs and festivals. Mr. Barnebey revisited that the "how" we are funding the fairs and festivals is most important. Mr. Johnson advised that no one is stating we can't have the fairs and festivals but it's more so "how" we do them and who we do them with.

Mr. Washington mentioned his support for the Mainstreet budget. Mr. Johnson pointed out that the increase to the FY24 Mainstreet budget is to assist them with taking over the fairs and festivals if they so choose.

Mr. Washington questioned if the Woman's Club is CRA owned property. Mr. Johnson advised it is owned by the CRA and is going out for an RFP or ITB to select a contractor to start the renovation with hopes of beginning this year. Mrs. Daniel gives her full support. Mr. Washington inquired if it's a historical structure. Mr. Johnson advised it is.

Mr. Washington asked if the budget includes funds to purchase the East Palmetto Woman's Club along 8th Ave West. He advised it's in need of repair and feels it's a blighted structure within the city. Mr. Johnson recommended they apply for the Commercial Façade program. Mr. Barnebey reminded the members that if there is something they want to pursue, this is the perfect opportunity to make those recommendations so they can be presented to the CRA Board for their approval. Mr. Johnson advised if the CRA Board agrees, there is a line item to purchase property. Mr. Barnebey advised a challenge is it being owned by non-profit. If so, CRA can't assist unless acquired by the CRA.

Mr. Washington inquired about the old Masonic Lodge. Mr. Barnebey advised there are communication issues with the contact. Mr. Johnson advised the CRA reached out to the Jacksonville office in early July and having communication issues with not following thru with appointments. Mr. Washington inquired about the fines and fees being more than the appraised amount. Mr. Barnebey agreed. Mr. Washington spoke in favor of an adult daycare or service center for the area if the structure is sound. Mr. Barnebey advised foreclosure has been discussed in the past. If the CRAAB wanted to make that recommendation, they could do so at the next meeting. Mr. Barnebey mentioned lack of parking is an issue. Mr. Johnson reminded the board that without having permission to enter the property or the CRA having ownership, we can't order a study of the structure. Staff will make another attempt to make contact and request in writing permission to enter the structure.

MOTION: Mrs. Daniel moved, Mr. Washington seconded, and the motion carried 2-0 to approve and recommend the Fiscal Year 2024 CRA Budget to the CRA Board.

CRA Director Comments:

Ed Johnson stated Chief Tyler is willing to provide the CRAAB quarterly updates and will do so going forward. Updates would include what the CRA Officers are doing within the community and how effective the community policing is.

Mr. Johnson is looking forward to having the CRAAB meet monthly and discuss items going before the CRA Board for approval.

Mr. Johnson is moving forward with filling the CRAAB vacant position with Mr. Herman Cadena. Mr. Johnson feels strongly that the Hispanic community should have a voice since representing almost 49% of the population. He hopes the community will feel more comfortable sharing information with Mr. Cadena and allow him to be the conduit between the CRA and the community.

Chair Daniel adjourned the meeting at 4:00PM.

MINUTES APPROVED: SEPTEMBER 7, 2023

ED JOHNSON

ED JOHNSON
CRA INTERIM DIRECTOR