

Community Redevelopment Agency
Advisory Board Meeting
August 11, 2009 5:30 PM

Board Members Present:

Charles Smith, Chair
Nick Costides
Sia Mollanazar
Betty Ann Price

Staff Present:

Diane Ponder, Deputy Clerk-Administration

Mr. Smith called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. A moment of silence was observed, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Smith announced the meeting has a time certain end of 6:15 p.m., after which a joint meeting with the CRA Board will begin at 6:30 pm.

Mr. Smith introduced Jeff Burton, the recently appointed Interim CRA Administrator. Mr. Burton acknowledged that he is in possession of his contract, but has not yet executed it.

Mrs. Ponder informed the Board that Mr. Barnebey was not made aware of this meeting.

1. AGENDA APPROVAL

MOTION: Ms. Price moved, Mr. Costides seconded and motion carried 4-0 to approve the August 11, 2009 agenda.

2. DISCUSSION: STOREFRONT GRANT PROGRAM

Mr. Costides discussed the comments he made to the CRA Board concerning signage and the redundancy that is occurring in the development of the storefront grant program documents.

At this point in the meeting, Mr. Burton discussed his past work experience, his current job and its responsibilities, and his educational background. He discussed what his role as the CRA Administrator will entail. Mr. Smith also discussed the assistance Mr. Burton will provide the CRA and the CRA Advisory Board.

Mr. Costides discussed the program's intent regarding maintenance, including the repair of paved parking lots and the painting of buildings, and signage. He stated that if the intent is clear, the Advisory Board's job is to review every application and determine if the proposed improvements meet the intent of the program. He suggested language be added to the eligibility examples page of the document, as follows:

Improvements must be in keeping with the intentions of the program. Items on the example list will not necessarily be approved if they do not meet all other aspects of the Façade Enhancement Grant Program.

He further opined the intent of the program is "to make something look better, not seasonal maintenance".

The Board discussed the right of the property owner vs. tenant participating in the program. The Board approved the addition a first bullet in the Eligibility section on page 2 that would set criteria whereby a property owner must be in agreement with the proposed improvements and

application for the grant. Mr. Burton spoke of a past practice whereby there was both an owner's and tenant's portion of the program. Discussion ensued on the most expedient way to resolve the issue of ownership, acknowledging that Attorney Barnebey should be consulted on the topic.

Discussion ensued on whether or not the applicant should be required to be present when the Board is considering an application. That is not a current requirement of the program, and no decision to alter that practice was made.

The issue was raised regarding the CRA funding churches. Ms. Ponder advised the Board that Attorney Barnebey had informed the CRA Board that funding churches is not permissible, but she could not recall the law he cited. The Board requested the documentation Attorney Barnebey quoted regarding the topic be forwarded to them.

Mr. Smith stated he will inquire if the CRA can fund a small amount (\$1,000 - \$2,000) without Board approval.

3. CRA FACILITATOR'S COMMENTS

Mr. Burton stated he will be discussing ideas on how to streamline the process with the Board at a subsequent meeting.

Mr. Smith suggested that Mr. Burton meet with City Commissioners, with counsel approval, to seek any topics or suggestions the CRA Advisory Board should address.

4. ADVISORY BOARD COMMENTS

None

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

The next CRA Advisory Board meeting is September 8, 2009

Meeting adjourned at 6:13 pm.



Jeff Burton
Interim CRA Administrator