

APPROVE MINUTES
PALMETTO COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY
ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
March 12, 2013 - 5:30 PM

Board Members Present: Board Members Absent:

Betty Ann Price, ChairMcArthur Sellars

Sia MollanazarRoberto Gonzalez

Barbara Gaulien

Staff and Others Present:

Jeff Burton, CRA Director

Scott Rudacille, Assistant City Attorney

Antoinette Kilgore, Administrative Assistant

Robert Marble, CRA Staff

The meeting was call to order at 5:30 p.m. by Betty Ann Price. A moment of silence was observed followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

▶ New advisory board member Barbara Gaulien was introduced and sworn in by Jeff Burton

1. ▶ CRA Advisory Board agenda approval.

▶ Action: Sia Mollanazar moved to approve the March 12, 2013 agenda.

Seconded by Barbara Gaulien.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous vote.

2. ▶ Approval of Febrauary 12, 2013 minutes.

▶ Action: Sia Mollanazar moved to approve the February 12, 2013 minutes.

Seconded by Betty Ann Price.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous vote.


NEW BUSINESS

None

OLD BUSINESS

3. Review of Downtown Commercial Core Incentive amendment


Mr. Burton discussed proposed amendments to the Downtown Commercial Core incentives plan. The potential incentive maximum amount will be reduced to 25%, from the current level of 30% of the building officials permit value, in light of the potential to receive a 20% matching brownfield incentive for jobs creation. Another main change will be an alternative fee arrangement that would provide non-profit entities the opportunity to apply for incentives. Additionally, Mr. Burton pointed out that the CRA board will determine on a case-by-case basis how future incentives will be paid out to applicants, as larger amounts may need to be paid out over a longer period of time. Each project will have a formal agreement specifying the payment arrangement.

** Action: Sia Mollanazar moved to recommend the approval of the amendments to the Downtown Commercial Core Incentive Plan.
Seconded by Barbara Gaulien.**

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous vote.

4. Reaffirmation of CRA debt reduction goal.

Mr. Burton asked CRA Advisory Board to reaffirm its previous recommendation to use a portion of the FY 2013 CRA funds to pay down some of the debt on the CRAs loan.

** Action: Sia Mollanazar moved to recommend use of CRA funds for debt reduction.
Seconded by Barbara Gaulien.**

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous vote.

5. CRA Attorney Comments

No comment.

6. CRA Director Comments

Mr. Burton spoke of the following for the next advisory board meeting:

- A. Board members were asked to think about what the term “local vendor” should entail for purposes of the incentives programs in the CRA.
- B. A copy of the revised General Commercial Incentives plan will be provided to board members prior to the next meeting.
- C. Board officer elections and the oath of office will be on the next agenda.

Mr. Burton also stated that the CRA had applied for grant for MLK Park through The RESTORE Act, which allocates money from the settlement with BP. The CRA requested \$200,000 under

the storm water portion of the grant and its application was rated the highest in the region and the awarding of funds will come through the governors office.

Mr. Burton estimates the CRA has secured approximately \$6 million in grant money for past, current and future projects within the CRA.

Mr. Burton pointed out that bids for the construction of the Sutton Park Pavilion were evaluated and the CRA Board authorized negotiations to proceed with Zirkelbach Construction on the contract.

7. CRA Advisory Board Comments

Sia Mollanazar – No comments.

Barbara Gaulien – Asked where the MLK Park is located. Mr. Burton replied that there is no MLK Park yet, but that it will be located behind the Palmetto Youth Center when completed.

Betty Ann Price – Noted that since boat owners leaving the ramp at the river are unable to turn north onto 8th Avenue, the temptation is to proceed the first traffic light at intersection of 5th Street and 8th Avenue. Ms. Prices concern is that the new layout on 5th Street between 10th and 8th Avenues will not readily accommodate traffic with boat trailers. Mr. Burton stated that he had not received any feedback regarding boat trailers travelling that route, but will continue evaluating the situation. Ms. Price stated that a consideration might be to put up signs at the boat ramp recommending the use of 7th Street for access to 8th Avenue when headed north.

8. Citizens Comments

Willie Davis expressed concern about how members are selected for the CRA Advisory Board. He noticed that those who have been chosen live in some other ward other than the ward he lives in. Ms. Price stated this is the Advisory Board and that there is a separate CRA Board. Mr. Rudacille stated that the Advisory Board is selected by the Mayor and approved by the City Commission. Mr. Burton said that the state statute states that members either have to live in or work in the CRA district, in order to be on the board. Mr. Davis stated that he feels that needs in his are too often neglected. Mr. Mollanazar emphasized that the advisory board has only an advisory function and that Mr. Davis concerns would probably be better addressed by other entities with enforcement and/or financial authority.

9. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

