

**SPECIAL CRA BOARD MEETING
February 24, 2014
7:00 PM**

Board Members Present:

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

Staff Present:

Mark Barnebey, City Attorney
Jeff Burton, CRA Director
Jim Freeman, City Clerk
Allen Tusing, Public Works Director
Rick Wells, Chief of Police
Amber Foley, Assistant City Clerk

Mayor Bryant opened the CRA Board meeting at 7:46 p.m.

1. CRA BOARD AGENDA APPROVAL

Motion: Mrs. Varnadore moved, Mr. Davis seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to approve the February 24, 2014 CRA Board Agenda.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

3. CRA CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes: 2/3/2014
- B. Riverside Landscape
- C. CCNA Environmental Engineering Services
- D. Gateway Electronic Sign

Mrs. Cornwell removed items 3B and 3D from the Consent Agenda for discussion.

Motion: Mrs. Cornwell moved, Mrs. Varnadore seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to approve items 3A and 3C of the February 24, 2014 CRA Consent Agenda.

3.B. Riverside Landscape Discussion:

Mrs. Cornwell complimented the design of the Riverside landscape. She said that the maintenance for the palm trees will be minimal.

Motion: Mrs. Cornwell moved, Mr. Smith seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to approve 3.B. Riverside Landscape.

Mrs. Varnadore and Mr. Smith requested that shade trees be considered in the future for placement along downtown and by the boat ramp parking.

3.D. Gateway Electronic Sign Discussion:

Mrs. Varnadore questioned how effective the sign will be for those traveling south through Palmetto and over the Green Bridge. She opined that the budget for the sign may not be worth the effects. Mr. Williams agrees with Mrs. Varnadore and opined that the budget for this one sign could be used to place multiple non-electronic signs throughout the City.

Motion: Mrs. Cornwell moved, Mr. Smith seconded, and the motion carried 3-2 to approve item 3.D. Gateway Electronic Sign. Mrs. Varnadore and Mr. Williams voted no.

4. MLK PARK UPDATE

Mayor Bryant stated she has signed the contract with Stellar for the development of MLK Park.

5. RIVERSIDE PARK BOAT RAMP UPDATE

Mr. Burton informed the Board that he is waiting on the contract from the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD).

6. CRA DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Mr. Burton stated that the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council (TBRPC) awarded the 5th Street Project with the "Future of Regions" award. The award will be presented on March 28th.

7. PRESIDING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

Mayor Bryant is pleased with the projects that are occurring throughout the City and the CRA District.

8. CRA BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Mr. Williams—asked Mr. Burton to follow up with the removal or trimming of the reclinata palm that is overgrown on the property just east of the DeSear's building on 10th Street East.

He also asked about the two palm trees that are dead along Haben Boulevard near the traffic circle. Mr. Burton is working with the contractor to clean out the median along Haben. When the weather is warm the contractors will then go in and plant a few more trees and contract with Riviera Dunes for the maintenance of the median. Mr. Williams asked that Mr. Burton contact Barbara Gaulien of Riviera Dunes with an update. Mr. Tusing informed the Board that there will be up-lighting installed along the median on Haben to point to the palm trees.

Mr. Davis—congratulated Mr. Burton on receiving the award from the TBRPC.

Mr. Smith—asked Mr. Burton if a date has been set for construction to begin on MLK Park. Mr. Burton stated it will begin as soon as possible. As soon as the sub-contractor on site clearing is able to mobilize and get here the land clearing will begin for MLK.

Mayor Bryant adjourned the meeting at 8:11 p.m.

Minutes approved: April 7, 2014

James R. Freeman

James R. Freeman
City Clerk