

APPROVED
MINUTES
NORTHWEST PROGRESSO – FLAGLER HEIGHTS
REDEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD
FORT LAUDERDALE
100 NORTH ANDREWS AVENUE
8th FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
JANUARY 28, 2015 – 3:30 P.M.

Cumulative Attendance
May 2014 - April 2015

| <u>Members Present</u> | <u>Attendance</u> | <u>Present</u> | <u>Absent</u> |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Steve Lucas, Chair | P | 7 | 0 |
| Ella Phillips, Vice Chair | A | 5 | 1 |
| Jessie Adderley | P | 6 | 1 |
| Sonya Burrows | P | 7 | 0 |
| Ron Centamore | P | 7 | 0 |
| Alan Gabriel | P | 5 | 2 |
| Camille Hansen | P | 4 | 0 |
| Mickey Hinton (arr. 3:41) | P | 5 | 2 |
| Brice Lambrix | A | 3 | 3 |
| Dylan Lagi | P | 7 | 0 |
| Mark Mattern | P | 7 | 0 |
| Dr. Rosalind Osgood | P | 2 | 0 |
| Yvonne Sanandres | P | 4 | 3 |
| Scott Strawbridge | P | 7 | 0 |
| John Wilkes | A | 4 | 2 |

Currently there are 15 appointed members to the Board, which means 8 would constitute a quorum.

It was noted that a quorum was present at the meeting.

Staff

Alfred Battle, Deputy Director of Sustainable Development
Sandra Doughlin, Clerk III, DSD/ECR
Thomasina Turner-Diggs, CRA Project Coordinator
Bob Wojcik, Planner III
Audrey Gough, Economic Development Aide
Lisa Edmondson, Recording Secretary, Prototype, Inc.

Communication to City Commission

None.

I. Call to Order / Roll Call

Chair Lucas called the meeting to order at 3:36 p.m. Roll was called and it was noted a quorum was present.

II. Approval of Minutes from January 7, 2015

Motion made by Mr. Gabriel, seconded by Mr. Lagi, to approve [as amended].

The following correction was noted: the parking entrance to Fairfield @ Flagler Village is located on NE 2nd Avenue rather than 2nd Street.

In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

III. Informational Presentation – 2014 Creative Artist Advancement Programs (2)

Mr. Battle explained that Broward County has provided grant funding for artists who engage the local community to develop ideas for public art projects. In the past, artists have presented to the Board as part of the public outreach process. The community outreach phase has now been completed and the artists are proposing specific projects. The Board may or may not be asked to contribute funding to these public art projects in the future.

Susan Wood showed a PowerPoint presentation to the Board, reviewing the process related to the Butterfly Public Art Community Project. She received a grant from the Broward Cultural Division, which is funded in part by the National Endowment for the Arts. As part of the public process, she met with members of the community within the CRA and its surrounding areas. Based on this public outreach, she determined that a double-sided bench in Provident Park could serve as a useful and colorful landmark in the community.

The design concept for the bench will use designs that originated from supporters of the Underground Railroad, as well as positive designs deriving from other cultures. The bench construction will be as maintenance-free as possible. The finished product will be highly visible from Sistrunk Boulevard.

Mr. Battle advised that next steps will include determining the cost of the project and its materials, as well as a process to determine the community's level of support. He pointed out, however, that the grant funds for this project have already been exhausted.

Grace Kewl, Broward County Arts Administrator, explained that the program allows artists in the Broward market to take their work into the public realm. The Creative Artist Advancement Program includes both grant funding and a professional development aspect, as artists must engage the community, understand public art and design, and

prepare a conceptual proposal. Artists who complete a five-day training program may then submit letters of interest to apply for grant funds, develop a conceptual proposal, and obtain community support.

Valerie Amor also showed a PowerPoint presentation to the Board. Her project, entitled "Building Bridges," focuses on both the upcoming All Aboard Florida initiative and the transit-oriented development (TOD) that has occurred along the FEC corridor, and the railways' effects on the surrounding communities. She reviewed some of the options under consideration for her project, which includes interactive aspects. [A copy of the PowerPoint presentation is attached to these minutes.]

Mr. Battle advised that Staff will work with the County and the artists to determine possible funding recommendations related to the projects. He recalled that the CRA has set aside funds for unique opportunities, such as the Flagler Village Community Garden and other nontraditional projects within the CRA.

The Board discussed the presentations, noting that there may also be funds available through the Department of Parks and Recreation to fund the project within Provident Park. Mr. Battle pointed out that funds are available to renovate the Mizell Center, which is located across the street from the park, and noted that this area is the center of the Sistrunk Corridor.

IV. Director's Report

Mr. Battle advised that a workshop on development was held at a recent City Commission, which is likely to be the first of a series of similar meetings. One of the documents presented at the workshop addressed the City-owned commercial and residential properties acquired over the past several years. This led to discussion of both the commercial and housing markets, as well as the potential disposition of these City-owned properties. Mr. Battle noted that the City has asked the Broward Planning Council for 5000 additional housing units. He concluded that the City hopes to see more growth in its Downtown area and surrounding neighborhoods.

He continued that the City's Affordable Housing Committee, which addresses policy relating to affordable housing, has raised the issue of the City's inventory of residential properties, which could be developed in support of affordable housing. Most of these are single-family properties, a large number of which are in Northwest Fort Lauderdale in the Durrs and Dorsey Riverbend neighborhoods. On Tuesday, February 3, the City Commission will discuss this inventory and make recommendations regarding the disposition of these assets. Many were originally acquired for use in the Community Development Division's Housing Program, which provides down payment assistance to individuals seeking to purchase single-family homes and has seen great success in the past.

Mr. Battle also noted that he has accepted a new position with the City as Deputy Director of Sustainable Development, the Department which includes the City's community redevelopment programs. The Board recognized his promotion with a round of applause, although he noted that this means he will no longer serve as CRA Director.

He continued that Staff is continuing to work on the lighting study and ambassador program in the Flagler Village area. The next phase of the lighting study will include a proposal for additional work, as well as identification of areas in which lighting is currently deficient and where other physical improvements may be needed in addition to lighting. Some of these improvements may come as the result of various development projects in the area, which are required to install some of the necessary infrastructure for lighting.

With regard to the ambassador program, Mr. Battle advised that an update will be presented in February or later. It is likely that a contribution will be made to the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) to increase their management of this program. It is hoped that this program will eventually expand to the west, including Sistrunk Boulevard and other commercial corridors of the CRA.

In the Northwest area, a request for funding of wayfinding signage will be presented at an upcoming meeting. The program will "piggyback" on a similar wayfinding program in development for the beach area, and will be implemented in the Sistrunk area. Mr. Battle observed that this will affect the nature of bicycle travel in this area, as individuals who do not bike in the roadway or on a shared-use path will be subject to ticketing.

Mr. Battle recalled the Board's communication to the City Commission from the January 7, 2015 meeting, which requested a joint workshop between the Board and the Commission. The City Commission has asked that this workshop be scheduled for April 7, 2015, from 12 to 1:30 p.m. He asked that the Board members respond to an email on this subject to advise whether or not they will be able to attend. Chair Lucas recommended that the Board put together a draft agenda for this workshop, including some of the general issues they wish to discuss.

Mr. Battle concluded that in late 2014, he had reported that the Florida Housing Finance Corporation would reopen the low income housing tax credit application cycle. Applications for these credits are due in February 2015. These projects receive funding assistance that allows individuals with lower incomes to live in some of the newly renovated properties in the Northwest area. He recalled that several years ago, the City Commission had discussed whether or not there are already sufficient projects of this nature in Fort Lauderdale. At present, at least three applications for sites in Fort Lauderdale seeking these tax credits will be submitted. Funding recommendations will be made in May for 2016-2017 projects.

Mr. Strawbridge commented that the City and County have significant unmet needs for affordable housing, resulting in difficulty connecting the workforce with places to live near where available work exists. He pointed out that it is not possible to dictate where individuals may live based on their income, or to gerrymander affordable housing in a way that denies individuals with lower incomes the right to live in certain areas. He concluded that these actions have resulted in ongoing litigation in other municipalities.

V. Communication to CRA Board

None.

VI. Old / New Business

Chair Lucas thanked Mr. Battle once more for his years of service to the CRA.

Mr. Battle advised that a CRA-owned building located at 6th Street Plaza has been foreclosed upon due to unpaid taxes. This issue is not yet fully resolved, as the owner is seeking to work through this issue with the lender. The CRA Board is likely to discuss this issue further at their February meeting.

VII. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 4:54 p.m.

Any written public comments made 48 hours prior to the meeting regarding items discussed during the proceedings have been attached hereto.

[Minutes prepared by K. McGuire, Prototype, Inc.]