

# **CRA Committee Meeting Meeting Minutes Wednesday, May 20, 2015**

**Called to Order:** Charlie Frank-Matthews, Chairman

**Roll Call By:** Ashley King, Secretary

## **Approval of Minutes**

- ✚ Minutes for 4/15/15
  - 1<sup>st</sup> – Pat Murphy; 2<sup>nd</sup> – Plythe Gibbons. All in favor, None opposed.

## **Chairman Comments – C. Matthews**

- ✚ Event coordinator has been presented to the FPRA board
- ✚ If you are going to be late and/or absent please call the Chairman, Secretary, or Staff
- ✚ New endeavors for the CRA
- ✚ Election of officers will be on agenda for next month

## **Old Business**

### **Item 5a – Update on Tier 1, 2, & 3 Property Recommendations**

- ✚ Tier 2 Recommendations made at the April Commissioners meeting
- ✚ Updates made available in packet

### **Item 5b – Oaks at Moore’s Creek**

- ✚ Average price per home and subsidy amount was a concern of the board will check with Stuart & Shelby to see if they will modify their proposal
- ✚ Interested in doing something without a subsidy that is more market friendly
- ✚ City could off-load some of the mortgages and recycle the funds back into the project – Mike Brown
- ✚ Staff will contact the group
- ✚ Existing homes in the area are in the range of \$120k - \$130k

## **New Business**

### **Item 6b – Urban Redevelopment Projects – Elizabeth Woodruff**

- ✚ Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)
  - City receives grant money from HUDD every year based on a 5-year plan in 1-year increments
  - 2014- provided 8 commercial façade grants from the CRA
    - \$50k in grants to give away and leveraged \$300k in façade improvements
  - 2015- awarded 24 commercial façade grants for \$122k
    - 22 located within the CRA
  - 2016- focus for grants will be the Lincoln Park area and Orange Avenue corridor
  - Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> – Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> is the fiscal year

- ✚ Public Servicing Agency Grants
  - Grants to help the elderly and the youth
  - 2014 – gave away 11 grants
    - 9 went to organizations in the CRA
    - Projected to have served 3,500 citizens
  - 2015 – gave away 16 grants for \$70k
    - 2 went to organizations in the CRA
    - Projecting about 4,000 citizens will be served
  - Looking to partner with the Allegany and Franciscan Ministry to help increase funds for public service
- ✚ Lincoln Park Improvement Project – Nick Mimms
  - Funded by CDBG
  - Focused on 6<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 10<sup>th</sup> street as well as Avenue C and Dundas Court
  - New curbs, sidewalks, and resurfacing of streets
  - New Zora Neale Hurston and Highwaymen banners
  - New LED lighting and Stop signs throughout the area
  - Landscaping and Pedestrian improvements
- ✚ CDBG 2014-15 focused on promoting local art and heritage
  - Highwaymen heritage trail project
    - Ribbon cutting Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>
    - Guided trail tour, Art show, and Festival
    - Annual event
  - Rededication of Zora Neale Hurston Dust Track Trail in April
    - Annual event
- ✚ Satellite visitors center at Granny’s Kitchen on Avenue D
- ✚ Lincoln Park Muriel Project
  - Arts and Cultural Alliance will be overseeing getting the artist and the designs for the project
  - Artwork will be drawn on the wall and the community will come together and paint it
- ✚ Economic Development
  - Collaborating w/ SCORE to provide workshops for small and micro- enterprises
  - SCORE is a group of retired business owners that donate their time to help existing business owners and entrepreneurs
  - Providing quarterly workshops starting in November
  - If businesses participate in workshops they will be eligible for grants
- ✚ City to partner with the MLK Committee to have a job fair and a clean-up day
- ✚ FPAT – Fort Pierce Authentic Tours
  - Since 2011 CDBG has offered funds for tourism and mirco-enterprises that profit from visitors coming to Fort Pierce
  - 40+ members
  - SLC tourism has increased by 16% since last year
  - Advertising on billboards, trade shows, and cards located in every restaurant, hotel, etc. from Orlando to Jupiter
  - International advertising in Germany and Scotland, and also on National Geographic

- ✚ Grant Projects that aren't CDBG
  - Melody Lane Public Fishing Pier
    - 2 grants from FL Inland Navigation District
    - 220 ft. public fishing pier on Melody Lane with a musical theme
  - Floating Dingy Docks
    - Funded by FL Boating Infrastructure Grant and FL Inland Navigation District
    - On Indian River Drive, in the marina

#### **Item 6a – Welcome Sign**

- ✚ Preference towards the manual sign
- ✚ Look for a company closer than Sarasota
- ✚ Signs are currently not in budget
  - Motion: To move forward with signage and get bids from other areas as well as local bids. – Robin Delgado; 2<sup>nd</sup> – John Hopkins. All in favor, None opposed.
- ✚ Public Comments:
  - The electronic sign would make it a little more professional. – Steve Tarr

#### **Item 6c – CRA Next Step**

- ✚ Safety could be a new focus – C. Frank-Matthews
  - Discussion of sub-station downtown with the new chief of police when she starts
- ✚ Public relations campaign – R. Delgado
  - Staff has been working with Scripps to get stories in “Your News”
- ✚ Meeting will be set up with the new chief in either July or August
- ✚ Thorough review of the finance system of the CRA was provided at the start of the committee and provided in binders
  - Update will be provided
- ✚ Marketing Specialist, Shyanne Helms, will be in attendance at the next meeting

#### **Item 6d – Attendance**

- ✚ Erica Ganzi has been temporarily assigned to a commitment in Louisiana, but would like to continue with the committee
  - Motion: To allow Erica to conference call in to the meetings. – M. Brown: 2<sup>nd</sup> –A. King. All in favor, None opposed.
- ✚ Faye Owens-McCarthy has been absent for 5 consecutive months and have missed many meetings non-consecutively
  - Chairman has personally called
  - Motion: To notify Ms. Faye Owens-McCarthy that she will be replaced on the committee. – John Hopkins; 2<sup>nd</sup> – P. Murphy. All in favor, None opposed.
  - Commissioner Alexander will be notified.

#### **Item 7 – Public Comments**

- ✚ Have someone to update on all the accomplished projects
- ✚ Sign up to volunteer for the event planner for the city in staff office

#### **Item 8 – Staff Comments**

- ✚ Election of officers will be at the next meeting
- ✚ All positions are available

**Item 8a – Fort Pierce Business Alliance Recommendations**

- ✚ Parking in downtown and along the beaches has become very challenging
- ✚ Have parking meters downtown in some areas
- ✚ Have parking permits for the employees of the downtown area
- ✚ Enforce the 2-hr parking
- ✚ Assigning the top floor of the parking garage to the City employees, have paid parking everywhere else, and free parking in the garage ONLY
- ✚ Have the parking lot across from the courthouse for the court employees
- ✚ Parking will be on the agenda for the next meeting

**Meeting Adjourned at 3:33 pm**