

**CRA Citizen Advisory Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes
March 15, 2018
5:30 P.M.**

The March 15, 2018 CRA Citizen Advisory Committee meeting was held in the City Conference Room in the Municipal Administration Building at approximately 5:30 p.m. Chairman Mark Bennet called the meeting to order.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mark Bennett, Chair, Charlene Bennett, Christopher Lutton, Jennifer Leeks

MEMBERS ABSENT: Murray Zacharia

CITY STAFF PRESENT: Kathy Bangley; Planning Director, Fany Lozano; Administrative Assistant, Karen Thompson, Assistant CRA Director

Agenda Item 1. ROLL CALL

Agenda Item 2. Approval of Minutes: February 15, 2018

Charlene Bennet made a motion to approve the February 15, 2018 meeting minutes, Christopher Lutton seconded the motion, and the committee unanimously approved.

Agenda Item 3. S&ME Presentation CRA Master Plan

Karen Thompson opened up the meeting by stating that as of the last meeting, it has been observed that the recommendations to the plan were received well at the last CRA meeting in respect to linking the Southwest section to Downtown. Charlene Bennet asked "what is meant by the Southwest?" Kathy Bangley responded that by looking at the map we cannot determine why the Southwest was included, but that most likely it's meant for pedestrian connectivity. Christopher Lutton added that a line should be drawn on the map to define the Southwest for the neighborhoods or businesses. Kathy Bangley notified everyone that the map has been corrected to add the descriptions for the Existing land use, and that it will be included in the draft at page 10 once the plan is updated.

There was open discussion about the budget and Kathy Bangley stated that the budget does not reflect the amount of dollars to be spent. Mark Bennet stated that he would like to see more money but that he would also like to see others spend their money on his town. Kathy Bangley re-stated that the CRA Board was happy with the plan, and they asked what the thoughts of the CRA Committee were and that they wanted to observe the recommendations and said changes.

There was a round table commentary in which Charlene Bennet stated that she is happy with the plan as it stands, and wants to make sure that the Northwest area does not get short changed. Christopher Lutton stated, that as far as the budget goes, there needs to be more concentration on spending more money from the perimeter of the City towards the center. He continued with stating that the center of the City is really nice and pretty but you cannot see it from Highway 27 and that we need to draw more people into the City to purchase homes. He also stated that projects should be prioritized from the perimeter. Karen Thomson stated that Downtown is where we get the biggest return on CRA dollars. Mark Bennet stated that Non-residents are not drawn in to the Downtown area, and that priority should be given to spruce up Central Avenue and the store fronts possibly via grants to property owners to spruce up the businesses. Charlene asked if there was an entrance budget? There was open discussion about entrances to the City and the design and consistency of the entrances. Kathy Bangley stated that the City Manager wants entrances to the City, but there has to be collective planning to approve the changes.

Jennifer Leeks asked "What about the Northwest section?" Kathy Bangley responded that there is focus on Affordable Housing, mixed development and that state funds are available, but the budget does not reflect

those funds. Charlene Bennet added that there should be an increase in connections to the Northwest section.

Jennifer Leeks asked, "what are the main entrances considered?" Kathy Bangley stated that the entrances may be up for debate but it can be items such as how to improve a sign to the airport; getting to the core of the City from 1st street, which is the historic district; possibly a survey can be conducted to determine what should be considered and entrance. Mark Bennet stated that there should be a plan to update Orange Avenue and would like to see more development for bicycle trails, facilities and clean vacant properties. He also asked if this plan goes to the Planning Board? Kathy Bangley responded, "No." Mark Bennet is happy with the plan and wants to get the plan in motion. Kathy Bangley stated that the plan is not set in stone and can be amended if necessary. She recommended that the plans like this one be re-visited every five years.

Jennifer Leeks asked about recreational facilities. Kathy Bangley responded that recreational facilities are not covered through CRA funds. Mark Bennet added that this plan does not focus on recreation.

Charlene Bennet made a motion to recommend that CRA accepts the plan proposal as Revised. Christopher Lutton seconded the motion. All voted in favor, the motion passed.

Open discussion continued after the motion, Jennifer Leeks stated that she is concerned about the Northwest side not benefiting from this plan. She asked what else can be done to help the Northwest side? Kathy responded that there are advocacy groups that can help with legal workshops to help residents and property owners understand ownership and get clarification, especially when properties change ownership constantly, she stated that this type of program is called out in this plan. Motion was called again in Favor.

Karen Thompson stated that this plan will go to CRA to get their blessing, the taxing authority will be notified and the resolution will be adopted. There are two more meetings that will take place before adopting the plan.

Mark asked if the county is aware of this plan? Kathy Bangley responded "no, because the boundaries are not changing."

COMMUNICATIONS & PETITIONS

There was no public in attendance.


There was discussion about the roads towards Florida's Natural and their bad conditions. Mark Bennet inquired about future meetings. Kathy Bangley responded as plans develop more projects. Karen Thompson suggested every month. Charlene Bennet suggested 4 times a year.

Charlene Bennet asked about the implementation of the plan already discussed. Kathy Bangley responded that the budget needs to be looked at and then we can move forward.

Christopher Lutton stated that the City is not doing well in regards to the contractor working on the trail. He stated that the City needs the appropriate design professional for all of these types of projects.

With no other business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 6:28pm

ATTEST:



Fany Lozano, Recording Secretary



Chairman/Vice-Chairman