



**Minutes of the  
Community Redevelopment Agency  
Regular Meeting  
Monday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016 @ 6:00 p.m.  
Council Chamber, City Hall**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Farley called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Motion to adopted the agenda was made by Board member Brown; seconded by Vice Chairman Gudis. Motion carried unanimously.

**3. PRESENTATIONS**

**4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**5. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

*A. Approve Minutes of CRA Meeting held August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016*

Motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Board member Holmes; seconded by Board member Houston. Motion carried unanimously.

**6. PUBLIC INPUT**

**7. CRA ATTORNEY**

**8. CRA ADMINISTRATOR**

*A. Update regarding sidewalk connection for George Washington Carver Community Center*

**Background:** Agenda sheet **Requested Motion:** No motion required, staff update on a request for sidewalks at the George Washington Carver Center.

**Summary:** The City Council asked staff to evaluate installing a new sidewalk from the George Washington Carver Center to the Downtown area of Citrus Avenue. The most direct route is NE 5<sup>th</sup> Street, which could connect with an existing sidewalk by the Cross-Town Trail. Unfortunately, the City right of way is constricted in this area, it is reduced east of the Trail from approximately 42 ft. wide to 33 ft. wide. This narrowed right of way leaves no room for a new sidewalk to be installed unless property is acquired. In addition, existing structures on either side of NE 5<sup>th</sup> Street were built closer than normal to the asphalt roadway, so a new sidewalk would be adjacent to these structures. A solution would require right-of-way acquisition or road width reductions with likely utility relocations.

Given the restrictions on NE 5<sup>th</sup> Street, staff also evaluated NE 4<sup>th</sup> Street. This option would require a longer sidewalk, as the nearest existing sidewalk is located at NW 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue. The first block of sidewalk would be fairly easy to install, between Three Sisters Springs Trail and the Cross-Town Trail. It appears there is adequate right of way on the north side, but it would need to be surveyed beforehand to verify. However, the next section, west of the Cross-Town Trail to NE 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue, slopes abruptly downward to jurisdictional wetlands on either side of the Road. A new sidewalk in this area would require environmental permits to import fill material adjacent to possible wetlands, and it will be expensive to construct.

**Staff Recommendation:**

There are difficulties in proceeding with a new sidewalk on NE 5<sup>th</sup> Street due to the lack of City right of way, the close proximity of the structures to the Street and its potential cost. Installing sidewalk on NE 4<sup>th</sup> Street, can also be done between Three Sisters Springs Trail and the Cross-Town Trail if the Council desires but is not the direct route requested. Sidewalk options already exist from Carver Center to the down-town area, via Three Sisters Springs trail to either to US 19 to the north, or NW 3<sup>rd</sup> Street to the south.

End of Agenda Sheet]

CRA Administrator Burnell provided a brief introduction of the item and Public Works Director Lou Kneip reviewed existing conditions effecting and options for the requested project, including right-of-way, environmental permitting and other construction challenges for certain portions of the project. Board member Brown suggested details for installation and landscaping, Chairman Farley inquired about cost and CRA Administrator Burnell made note of drainage concerns related to the project. Board member Houston suggested potential solutions for project challenges.

Board consensus was reached for staff to move forward with the project, as discussed.

*B. Discussion regarding potential utilization of CRA Mini-Grant Program funding to address issues related to Hurricane Hermine*

**Background:** Agenda Sheet **Requested Motion:** Discussion only.

**Summary:** Staff is seeking direction from the Community Redevelopment Agency Board regarding the potential utilization of CRA Mini-Grant Program funding to address issues related to Hurricane Hermine. Current guidelines and application for the CRA Mini-Grant Program have been attached for reference and consideration of modification.

**Staff Recommendation:**

End of Agenda Sheet]

CRA Administrator Burnell provided a brief overview of the item and requested consideration of utilizing CRA Mini-Grant funding to assist eligible property owners in recovery efforts. Board discussion was held regarding potentially reducing the maximum award amount, suspending all categories but the “Distressed Property” category, and carrying forward the remaining FY 2016 funds. Board discussion was also held regarding informing the public of the funding availability and establishing a submission deadline.

Board consensus was reached for staff to move forward with the utilization of CRA Mini-Grant funds to assist eligible property owners, as discussed.

**9. COMMUNICATIONS**

Board member Brown spoke about the importance of informing the public that the City of Crystal River is open for business, and Board member Houston advised that Crystal River Main Street staff went door-to-door and found that approximately eighty percent of the businesses were open.

Main Street Director Karen Pieters advised that she has a list that has been posted on Facebook and shared with the City, and provided an update on the status of certain businesses still in the recovery process.

Planning and Development Services Director Jackie Gorman provided further information regarding the status of certain businesses effected by the flood and discussed the ability for businesses to flood proof.

Board member Gudis spoke on concerns expressed by Save Crystal River members regarding the status of City funding contracts related to the Kings Bay restoration project. CRA Administrator Burnell

provided a status update on the contract, which allows three years for project completion and is currently under review by FDEP, and an update on negotiations with the contractor on certain provisions.

#### **10. BOARD MEMBERS COMMENTS**

- A. *Jim Farley, Chair* – Spoke on the outcome of Hurricane Hermine, expressing gratitude that no lives were lost.
- B. *Mike Gudis, Vice Chair*- Concurred with the Chairman’s previous statement, expressed hopes for future funding of a new City Hall, and expressed concerns regarding how the 50% rule may impact some those affected by the storm.
- C. *Andy Houston*
- D. *Ken Brown*
- E. *Robert Holmes* – Spoke on the response and recovery efforts related to Hurricane Hermine, requesting that the City review the steps taken throughout the event to identify ways to better handle similar events in the future. He also expressed concerns related to the road closures and the impact of traffic on certain homes in flooded areas.

Chairman Farley made note of relief efforts under way, and further Council discussion was held regarding post storm issues, including security.

#### **11. PUBLIC INPUT**

*Dr. Desai- 6201 N. Suncoast Blvd.-* Inquired about a new City hall and CRA Administrator Burnell noted that it was included in the Bayside Master plan presented to Council earlier in the year and although unfunded, the replacement is included in the Five Year Capital Improvement Plan.

*Joe Chrietberg- 304 NW Crystal Street-* Spoke regarding the need for a new city hall, regardless of the funding source.

*Tom Gotterup- 6083 W. Fairhope Court-* Offered the services of Seniors Vs. Crime (352-249-9139) to help seniors and anyone needing assistance with contracts and other matters related to storm recovery to ensure that citizens are not taken advantage of.

Chairman Farley briefly discussed a scam occurring in Pasco county.

Board member Brown discussed the urgent need for a new city hall and suggested taking the city-owned property at the corner of Highway 19 and Citrus Avenue.

#### **12. ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Farley adjourned the meeting at 6:47.

ATTEST:



MIA FINK, CITY CLERK



CITY OF CRYSTAL RIVER



JIM FARLEY, CHAIRMAN