JACKSONVILLE BEACH

City of Jacksonville Beach

11 North Third Street
Jacksonville Beach, Florida

Regular Meeting Minutes

Community Redevelopment Agency

Monday, June 28th 2021	3:00 PM	Council Chambers

CALL TO ORDER

This meeting was called to order at 3PM

ROLL CALL

Art Graham (Chairperson), Frances Povloski (Vice-Chairperson), Jeffrey Jones, Gary Paetau, David McGraw

All board members were present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- May 24th 2021 Regular Meeting
- June 16th 2021 Workshop Meeting

A motion was made by Frances Povlovski to approve the minutes, 2nd made by Jeffrey Jones. All in favor

DOWNTOWN CAPE UPDATE

A representative from Jacksonville Beach Police Department gave a brief update from the CAPE on the Orange Crush festival. He stated that the festival did draw a crowd, but there was no major activity that called for emergency services. Overall, the weekend went fine. CAPE is preparing for the 4th of July holiday weekend now.

STAFF REPORT – Taylor Mobbs

Mr. Jeffrey Jones stated, for the record, the Phase 1 process of planning the site furnishings plans in the downtown was completed in 2017, but was not presented to the board until roughly 15 months later. Then another 6 months later, phase 2 was presented to the board in 2019. Mr. Jones wanted to note that this process has been drawn on for over 3 years at this point.

Mr. Jones also noted that he has some concerns over the beaches lighting plan. This was worked on, presented to beaches energy, and is being moved forward with very little CRA input.

Mr. Jones also would like to see the beaches lighting plan, but he has understood it was already too far along for the CRA to select the specific lights.

Planning and Development Director, Heather Ireland, asked Mr. Jones specifically what would he like to see? To which Mr. Jones replied, he would like the board to see the selections since they are the ones funding the project. Ms. Ireland stated she would try to get the selections that were made to the board so they are able to see what has been chosen.

Mr. Gary Paetau asked what is staff doing in the way of code enforcement?

Taylor Mobbs, CRA coordinator responded that she is working with code enforcement officers on complaints and violations in the districts, as well as working with IT to develop a way for citizens to submit violations directly to the CRA, rather than to code enforcement. This will allow CRA staff to investigate the complaint, and see if it is indeed a violation, then report to code enforcement to act.

Mr. Jeffrey Jones let the board know that he has set up an appointment to walk around with Ms. Mobbs in the downtown to show some areas of concern.

Mr. Gary Paetau also asked why the Mayor and Council had not seen the CRA communication plan presented the board by the Southern Group.

Mr. Jim Gilmore, Southern Group, stated that it was up to the board to take this plan to council. The board will allow staff to review the plan, and gather information on implementation internally, then take the plan to council in the very near future.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Frances Povlovski wanted to take a minute to note that council will be meeting in July to discuss steps and plans for the CRA. She stated event though the board won't be meeting prior to this, as there is no workshop in July, board members should go to each of the downtown corridors as listed in the plan and list our priorities and projects they feel are critical. The board can send those ideas to staff, so staff is able to know the direction the board wants to go before the council meeting.

Mr. Gilmore noted this process will also help the amendment process later on.

The Chairman, Art Graham, polled the board and everyone is in favor of doing this.

Staff should expect their responses by the second week of July.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Vote on Bicycle Racks, Bollard, Trash Cans, Seating, and Terraced Seating for the downtown

Mr. Art Graham notes that the site furnishing plans are ready for final approval. He also wanted to note the keyhole bike racks listed in the packet are not the same as the ones outside of City Hall. He is fine with the different racks, but wanted to note this for the board.

Ms. Ireland stated that according to DixHite, unfortunately some things selected a few years back were no longer available and this is the closest to what we already have.

Mr. Jones wanted to make clear that he is fine with the presented selection, but would prefer the ones existing outside of city hall. If those are no longer available, then the option provided will suffice.

Ms. Povlovski asked for some clarification on the surf board bike rack, and wanted to make sure on some of these we are able to implement the Jax Beach logo where appropriate. She also stated that could staff be sure there was proper vegetation around the seating stones so they fit into the environment.

Chairman Graham moved on to state he was concerned with terraced seating concept presented, and stated the police department also had some concerns.

Ms. Povlovski said she understands the concerns, and is in favor of eventually implementing the terraced seating, but until we have businesses in the area to encourage patrons to use the seating, we should hold off.

Mr. Paetau said he was the 'odd man out' on this vote, as he sees the seating as a quality change in the aesthetic surrounding Latham Plaza.

Mr. David McGraw said he has some concerns on how the placement of the seating will impact potential events utilizing the space.

A final motion was made to approve all of the bicycle racks, bollards, trash cans and seating in the downtown, and remove the terraced seating from the plan for the time being. The motion was made by Frances, and was 2nd by David McGraw. All board members were in favor.

b. The Southern Group- Contract Extension

Planning and Development Director, Heather Ireland, proposed a contract extension through December 31, 2021. This extension was amended to specify the Southern Group will assist staff in executing plan amendments for both districts.

Mr. Jim Gilmore expanded on this and let the board know it will include the amendment process guidance, as well as more training and workshops for the board, and working on the development of the incentive plan.

Mr. Jeffrey Jones made a motion to approve the extension. This was 2nd by France Povlovski. All were in favor.

c. Resolution 2021-06: Bicycle Lane Extension

Ms. Ireland let the board know staff had drafted both a memo and resolution to request approval from council for the CRA to extend the shared bicycle lane one block past the Margaritaville Hotel, to fully extend the length of the district.

Chairman Graham noted that this was due to their being one additional commercial block, it makes sense to make the lane the full length of the commercial area.

The board requested staff update the memo to reflect the "why" behind the request, and a motion was made approving the resolution, as well as the amended memo by Ms. Frances Povlovski. A 2nd was made by Mr. Jeffrey Jones. All were in favor.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

a. Sunshine Playground and South Beach Park Update, Playground RFP Update –Jason Phitides, Parks and Recreation

Superintendent, Trevor Hughes, let the board know they originally felt there would be 2-3 candidates that were finalists to bring to the meeting, however, one candidate scored unanimously 99/100 and the selection committee felt there was no need to interview several companies. Mr. Hughes handed out conceptual for the playground design, and told the board they anticipate, with CRA approval, taking this to the August 2nd, 2021 council meeting for approval.

Chairman Graham asked if there were plans to preserve the pickets currently surrounding the park, as those are a large part of the historical element of the playground. Mr. Hughes said yes there would be plans to preserve as much of the original fencing as possibly, as well as the entrance to the playground.

The board inquired about moving forward now with a formal motion to appropriate funds to begin the process, but due to processes that need to be followed, the resolution for funds cannot be approved until the July meeting. It was also noted by Jason Phitides, Parks and Recreation Director, that even if approved today it would not speed up the process.

Mr. Gary Paetau asked if there would be public input prior to the August council meeting. Mr. Hughes stated there would not be, since the selected company would not be 'approved' prior to the August meeting. Once council approves the selected company, then public input will begin.

The board was unanimous in moving forward with this project, and taking the selection to the August 2nd council meeting.

b. Downtown Incentive Plan Update- Heather Ireland

Ms. Ireland stated that we have reviewed the incentive toolbox, but we have not done 'ground work' in development an incentive plan specific to Jacksonville Beach. She stated staff wishes to reach out to the community in the downtown district and see what incentives they think would be helpful within the community, rather than just developing incentives at random. "What do they need, and what will get more people to invest in Jax Beach??"

Staff requested board permission to work with the communications director to create a survey to send out to businesses owners and residents to get public input. The board unanimously agreed, and staff will bring back rough draft questions to the July meeting.

c. Southend Projects and Plan Amendment- Jim Gilmore and Taylor Mobbs

Mr. Gilmore stated that all major work in the district is complete, and staff is working on developing the boards ideas into a spreadsheet of what is in the currently plan and can still be done, vs what needs a plan amendment.

d. Uniform Construction Fencing in CRA Districts – Gary Paetau

Mr. Paetau let the board know he gave handouts to public works and the building official, and both let him know there is currently no code that allows either to enforce any fencing requirements beyond basic OSHA safety requirements.

Chairman Graham asked Heather Ireland what current laws/ordinances exist for construction fencing? Ms. Ireland stated at this time there was nothing in the land development code requiring the fencing, but amended the code could be a possibility, if the board wished to proceed.

Ms. Ireland stated staff could take the idea to council, and look into this deeper.

Ms. Frances Povlovski noted that this would require more code enforcement, and asked if we have enough staff to cover this? She also noted that maybe we could provide fencing as part of an incentive program.

Chairman Graham said for staff to research this more and we would discuss further at the next meeting.

David McGraw pointed out he respected the idea behind doing this, but stated we could potentially be pushing business out of the downtown by adding an additional restriction the building/development process. He then stated if this is something the board wishes to see happen, maybe this needs to be a council decision and would be something required city wide, not just in the CRA.

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR TO VISITORS

Mr. Ken Marsh addressed the board with concerns about council needing to set clear expectations for what the CRA needs to accomplish. He encouraged the group to discuss what they wish to see, and take ideas to council, and that it is unfair for council to be critical of the board until they have given formal directions.

ADJOURNMENT

This meeting was adjourned at 4:47PM

NOTICE

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 286.26, Florida Statutes, persons with disabilities needing special accommodation to participate in this meeting should contact the City Clerk's Office at (904) 247-6299 no later than one business day before the meeting or by sending an e-mail to

CityClerk@jaxbchfl.net. Information concerning the hearing process is available online at www.jacksonvillebeach.org/publichearinginfo and a copy is also posted in the City Hall first floor display case. In accordance with Section 286.0114, Florida Statutes, any member of the public can attend the public hearing and can be heard on any matter presented before the Agency. Anyone who wishes to provide live public comment should complete a "Speaker Request Card" and submit it to the recording secretary prior to the beginning of the meeting. These forms are available at the entrance of the City Council Chambers for your convenience. Speakers will be called to address the Agency when specified items are under consideration and will be limited to a maximum of three minutes or less, at the discretion of the presiding officer.

Alternatively, written public comment can be submitted in advance and must include the following: (1) First Name, (2) Last Name, (3) Address, (4) Public Hearing Date, (5) Specific Agenda Item(s), and (6) Comments. Written public comments may be submitted by one of the following options: (1) Email to the Agency Administrator at planning@jaxbchfl.net, (2) Postal mail to Community Redevelopment Agency Administrator - Public Comment, 11 3rd Street North, Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250, or (3) Drop off in-person to Planning and Development at City Hall. Written comments that include all required information and are received 24 hours in advance of the meeting will be distributed to the Agency and attached to the related agenda item before the start of the meeting. Written public comments will be read into the record at the appropriate time and will be limited to three (3) minutes of reading time. All comments received are public record.

In accordance with Section 286.0105, Florida Statutes, any person desirous of appealing any decision reached at this meeting may need a record of the proceedings. Such person may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

cc: Mike Staffopoulos, City Manager

APPROVAL:

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Chairman, Art Graham

7/20/21
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Date