

CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE

Community Redevelopment Agency
Regular Meeting
April 24, 2023

The Community Redevelopment Agency met in formal session Monday, April 24, 2023 at 3:30 P.M. in the Alcazar Room at City Hall. The meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Nancy Sikes-Kline, and the following were present:

1. Roll Call: Nancy Sikes- Kline, Chairwoman
Roxanne Horvath
Barbara Blonder
Cynthia Garis
Jim Springfield

John Regan, City Manager
Isabelle Lopez, City Attorney
Elyse Weimann, Acting City Clerk
Ruben Franklin, Public Works Director
Jaime D. Perkins, Community Redevelopment Agency Manager
Jennifer Michaux, Police Chief
Melissa Wissel, Communications Director
Colleen Kuhn, Recording Secretary

2. Approval of Minutes (January 23, 2023).

MOTION

Commissioner Springfield MOVED to approve the January 23, 2023, Meeting Minutes. The motion was SECONDED by Commissioner Horvath and APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.

3. General Public Comments.

Public comment was opened; however, there was no response.

4. Hayling/Vickers Park Public Engagement Survey Presentation Alexis Ridgell- CRA Coordinator/Intern.

Alexis Ridgell, Community Redevelopment Agency Coordinator/Intern presented data collected on the recent Resident Input Surveys conducted on Eddie Vickers and Robert B. Hayling Freedom Parks. She

reviewed questions that were asked and noted that 158 people had responded, 143 of whom were Lincolnville residents or stakeholders.

Commissioner Blonder asked if there was any interest expressed in frisbee golf.

Ms. Ridgell said she saw some mention of frisbee golf, but it was not significant enough to categorize.

Commissioner Springfield asked about the lack of response from businesses.

Jaime D. Perkins, Community Redevelopment Agency Manager, stated there were not many businesses in Lincolnville which may account for the low response.

The Commission and staff discussed the community gardens including expansion and how they were operated.

Commissioner Blonder suggested adding the Park as part of the Great Florida Birding Trail.

5. Hayling/Vickers Park Masterplan Presentation.

Ms. Perkins said that the Lincolnville Community Redevelopment Agency (LCRA) Steering Committee met on April 17th and unanimously approved the Master Plan with some recommendations. She introduced Jeremy Marquis.

Jeremy Marquis, of Marquis, Latimer and Halback, reviewed his presentation and shared that a good amount of feedback had been received from the LCRA Steering Committee and the public. He shared the following LCRA recommendations:

- Ensure the history of the Park's name sakes were not lost.
- Addition of water fountains and bottle fill stations, utilities infrastructure for community events, restrooms, more shaded and parking areas, and dog waste containers.

Mr. Marquis showed designs of the Parks and noted the following features:

Eddie Vickers

- Benches, trash receptacles and dog waste stations
- Water fountains
- Historic signage
- Bio-filtration Garden
- Sidewalk games
- Deliberate pedestrian entrance
- Playground with resilient surface and basketball courts
- Batting cages
- Reunion plaza
- Separate dog parks
- Added parking
- Possible kayak vending machine
- Plenty of seating
- Structured shade

Dr. Robert B. Hayling Freedom

- Historic signs throughout

- Hayling Plaza
- Higher spaces for viewing
- Restroom pavilion
- Sunset terrace
- Covered pavilion
- Meditation zone
- Habitat for birding trail
- Accessible marsh overlook
- Park entrance games
- Sunset Terrace
- Clear visibility in the park

Commissioner Springfield and Mr. Marquis discussed the possibility of sidewalks that could include a jogging lane or track.

Commissioner Blonder asked for the use of native vegetation. She shared her concern about the amount of lawn care and use of pesticides that may be required.

Mr. Marquis said they could use all native plants and suggested adding Bahia Grass for lawn areas.

6. CRA Project Updates

A. HACRA Plan Amendment Update

Ms. Perkins said they were working with a consultant to amend the Historic Area Community Redevelopment Area (HACRA) Plan and expected it to be ready ahead of schedule. She said the City Manager would review the Amendment in early June, the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) Board would review in mid-June, and if adopted, it would be approved in September.

B. Fountain of Youth Elks Lodge

Ms. Perkins said the Institutional Rehabilitation Project was awarded over \$800,000 and indicated they were requesting a timeframe extension to complete the construction.

C. St. Paul Structural Engineering Assessment Update

Ms. Perkins said St. Paul received a grant award for roof repair. She reminded the Board they had approved a grant

application to help the Church complete a structural assessment. She said the Board had requested an update at their last meeting and noted that substantial information had been received very recently. She introduced Jude Kostage, who would provide an update on the Assessment.

Jude Kostage, Atlantic Engineering Services, said they had conducted a structural assessment on St. Paul's Church. He said immediate repairs were needed to keep the building safe and that more substantial work would be required in the future. He listed the following areas in need of temporary repairs:

- Main Sanctuary and roof
- Alter
- Brick along back and east side of building

Ms. Perkins requested that the Board approve the use of the remaining funding, \$85,000-\$90,000, to complete the temporary repairs and stabilize the building.

Commissioner Springfield asked how further repairs would be paid for.

Ms. Perkins said she was uncertain since the original request was just for the Assessment.

MOTION

Commissioner Horvath MOVED to approve use of the funds for the temporary repairs for life and safety purposes. The motion was SECONDED by Mayor Sikes-Kline.

VOTE ON MOTION:

AYES: Horvath, Sikes-Kline, Garris, Springfield, Blonder

NAYES: None

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

D. First Baptist Phase II

Ms. Perkins stated milestone dates were being met. She said the stakeholders were completing their own interior improvements separately and the project should be substantially completed by early May.

E. MLK Streetscape

Ms. Perkins said this was a multimillion-dollar capital improvement project funded by the CRA and LCRA. She noted it included widening of traffic lanes, sidewalks, electrical/sewer, and cultural heritage signage. She said they were moving into the design phase of the Project.

7. CRA Annual Report Presentation.

Ms. Perkins indicated the Annual Report was completed and had been submitted to the appropriate agencies in compliance with Florida State Statute. She noted the Report contained details on the CRA and LCRA's annual performance.

8. Items by Staff

None

9. Items by Chair and Board Members

Commissioner Garris requested an assessment of the West St. Augustine to see if a CRA would be of benefit.

Mayor Sikes-Kline and Isabelle Lopez, City Attorney suggested that Commissioner Garris bring the suggestion forward during the City Commission meeting.


10. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:36 P.M.¹



Nancy Sikes-Kline, Chairwoman

¹ Transcribed by Colleen Kuhn


Darlene Galambos, CITY CLERK

