

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 pm by Chair Nixon.

Roll call

Present: Member Bass-Prieto, Member Milton-Jackson, Member Demous

Also present:

CRA Manager Regina Davis, Attorney Brown

Agenda

Member Milton-Jackson motioned to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Member Demous. Motion passes 4-0.

The **minutes** and **financials** were not available due to an equipment breakdown. The manager will send via email and they will be discussed during the next meeting.

CRA Manager Updates

The Manager apologizes for the poor communication during the last month, unfortunately the City has been experiencing problems with email. This should be resolved shortly.

Tanyard Creek – Phase I is completed and paid in full, \$65,400. The remaining of the work is repairs and maintenance which doesn't fall under the CRA.

Kelly Lot – The regular CRA board approved the purchase of the lot at a cost of \$182,050 with the contingency that the appraised value supports the sales price. It was noted that there is contamination on the property and that the State would be doing clean-up, at their expense, but that this could delay this project two years or more. The property owner is not willing to renegotiate the price based on the contamination and the board decided to move forward with the purchase.

Downtown trees – Advised there has been discussion with the City Manager regarding the electrical needs, with Quincy Main Street and the Historic Board for their recommendations and conversations with an arborist and representative from Espositos. The manager will now move forward with removing the trees, having an arborist offer two/three options for replacements, presenting those options to Quincy Main Street and the Gadsden Historic Boards for a recommendation and coming back with a final recommendation. There was concern as to the process used to prioritize this project and if this is the best use of the funds.

Budget – Based on input from the Finance Director there will be some adjustments needed to reflect fund balance and reimbursement for RD Edwards grant.

City Commission regarding Dangerous Building Abatement Initiative – Seven properties have been identified for immediate demolition. Of those properties, one is a business

and the others are residential. City staff is recommending that the CRA share in the cost of demolition. They are working on getting a cost for the demolitions. The Manager expressed concern that the list is incomplete and not necessarily her choice of properties. There is also a concern that CRA dollars may be being looked at as an extension of City funds. There is a budget in place and it should not be at the City's discretion how to reallocate funds.

The manager mentioned that there are some challenges when it comes to the budget. There has been an occasion where funds were removed by the Finance Director without notification/authorization from the manager. During the City Commission meeting it was also mentioned to change the CRA budget to address infrastructure needs within the CRA district. A process needs to be set in place for expenditures from the CRA budget.

CRA Attorney Updates

- * Address the concern regarding budget expenditures; assured the board there is a process/guideline in place for handling budget expenditures, but that this was not followed. He will give a gentle reminder to the City Manager.
- * Is drafting contract for purchase of Kelly Lot
- * Suggested that the CRA regular board receive a copy of CRA advisory board minutes and/or recommendations; the manager was directed to send minutes via email.

Board Member Comments

Member Bass

- * plans have been provided for resurfacing of Pat Thomas to Hwy 90; would love for us to start a letter riding campaign for sidewalk and/or bicycle lane to be placed on Pat Thomas from Wal-Mart to the interstate; also need to address a crosswalk
- * at the end of March DOT is releasing their new guidelines "Neat Streets" ; supposed to be working with communities on economic development and health and safety; we need to send a letter requesting funding to District DOT and Chair of CRPTA Board

Member Demous – wanted to know what's happening on GF & A Drive. The fences have been erected; the parking area and walking trail are done.

Chair Nixon

- * Thanks to everyone for their service and especially our attorney for so well informed.
- * Concerned about Gadsden Arms considering the recent violence and the impact on Tanyard Creek due to the close proximity; Manager to speak with property manager to see if what the needs are and how we can help.

Adjournment – Motion to adjourn by Member Bass-Prieto, seconded by Member Demous. Meeting was adjourned at 7:00pm.

The next meeting is March 21, 2017 at 6:00pm.