

The Quincy Community Redevelopment Agency Board met in regular session on Tuesday, January 9, 2018 with Chairman McMillan presiding and the following **present at roll call**:

Board Member Elias, Board Member Gay, Board Member Sapp, Board Member Dowdell

Also present:

CRA Manager Regina Davis, Attorney Brown

Call to Order

Chairman McMillan called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

Approval of Minutes

Member Gay made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular board meeting from December 12, 2017 with any corrections if necessary. Member Sapp seconded the motion. Motion carries with a vote of 5-0.

Financials

According to the December 29, 2017 statement the beginning balance was \$244,055.72, there were four deposits, nine checks/debits as well as automatic withdrawals, in the amount of \$24,995.89. Interest paid \$10.71, leaving a balance \$361,562.15. Motion by Member Dowdell to approve the financials. Seconded by Member Gay. Motion carries with a vote of 5-0.

Presentation regarding the Development of the Kelly Lot Property

This item is a carryover from last month's meeting. The manager met with Interim County Administrator and Commissioner Viegbesie to discuss use of the lot.

Interim County Manager Dee Jackson presented a slideshow presentation of the proposed development of the Kelly Lot property currently owned by the CRA. The property includes a Veteran's Memorial Landmark, amphitheatre, market place and street parking. The county would like to assume ownership and be responsible for development and maintenance of the property. Brick pavers will be sold and the proceeds given to Veteran Affairs to directly benefit the county's veterans

Master Sergeant Michael Jackson of Veteran's Affairs was also present and is excited about the project. Is willing to do whatever he can to help out. Feels this is much needed way to say thank you to our veterans. Funds raised will provide much needed aide to veterans in the community.

County Commissioner Dr. Viegbesie pointed out the name of the lot is proposed to be "Gadsden County Veteran Memorial Landmark and Quincy Marketplace". Sees this as a great opportunity for collaboration between the City and County and a way to honor our veterans. Encourages the CRA to release the property to allow the county to revitalize this area.

Joe Munroe, former Main Street Director, is excited about the idea, likes aspects but has some reservations. Needs the opportunity to review the plans in more detail. Board needs to keep in mind access concerns if owned by the county, unsure if it would be beneficial to all citizens, or if it allows the versatility needed.

Member Sapp – Feels good about the project because it addresses an ongoing question that the board is facing “What to do with the Kelley property?”. Has some questions about the project also realizing this is the infancy stage. This could be an opportunity to relieve the CRA of the responsibility for management of the site, maintenance/upkeep and how to fund any renovations. Would like to continue working with the County to move this project forward.

Member Elias likes the idea of the opportunity to partner with the county on this endeavor. This is a beginning that we can work forward with the collaboration with the county to try to make this vision come to fruition. By combining the visions of both entities we can come up with something that will work for everyone involved. Also has questions regarding the proceeds and releasing of the land.

Member Dowdell – As a veteran and lover of his community, he loves the idea. Opportunity to show we care. This project is just what we need to put us on the map, iron out some logistics and make this happen.

Member Gay – Is glad to see the county and city will be working together. Looking forward to seeing collaboration between the CRA, City and BOCC. Benefits the citizens of City and County. Wants to be cautious moving forward and would like to see the stakeholders get together to develop a project everyone would be happy with. Also concerned about the ownership issue.

Chair McMillan – Wants to see a Veteran’s Memorial but is concerned about funding, ownership, parking for downtown and whether this would impede future development.

Joe Munroe – Would like to see representation from Main Street and the Historic Board to review/revise the plans and come up with some recommendations especially from the design standpoint.

County Commissioner Brenda Holt – Supports the project, suggests a collaborative meeting with all interested parties. Good opportunity to show cooperation between the city and county.

BOCC – Funding has been worked out up to \$250K including local nurseries and private sponsors. The board will also look into grant opportunities and have staff available to assist/be utilized as needed.

Member Sapp made a motion to have Manager Davis set-up a meeting with the interested parties to discuss the details and to come back with another presentation. Seconded by Member Dowdell. Motion carries with a vote of 5-0.

Manager Updates

She has received several calls from seniors asking for heaters. We don't have any and wanted to know if the board was interested in purchasing any. The board indicated they donate to Senior Citizens and this is not a responsibility of the CRA.

Has received inquiries about neighborhood signs in various areas. Estimated cost \$1,200 each. This refers to the official neighborhoods. This will be brought back to the board.

CRA Attorney Updates

None

Board Member Comments

Dowdell – None

Gay – Reiterated great idea of collaboration with the County. Let's make sure that our vision is not lost in the process, so that everybody can feel good about it.

Elias – None

Sapp – Asked if Manager Davis is the official grant writer for the City of Quincy. To which Ms. Davis responded no. Attorney Brown indicated that in order to make that happen, Ms. Davis' contract would have to be amended.

Chair McMillon – None

Adjournment – Motion by Member Sapp to adjourn, seconded by Member Dowdell, motion carries 5-0. Meeting adjourned 5:58pm.