

Call to Order

Chair Harris called the meeting to order at 6:07pm.

The Quincy Community Redevelopment Agency Regular and Advisory Boards met on Tuesday, April 6, 2021 for a joint meeting.

The following were present at roll call:

Regular board members: Member Dowdell, Member Canidate, Member Sapp

Advisory board members: Member Faircloth, Member Milton-Jackson, Member Flores

Also in attendance:

Manager Nixon, Attorney Brown, Admin Tribue, Staff Simmons, Dr. Nash, Dr. Carty

Review of FY 2020-21 Budget and Projects

Update on CDBG-DR Grant and RP2

Manager Nixon thanked everyone for their attendance at the joint meeting. He felt that it was important that the two boards get together and start the conversation about what the CRA will be doing in the upcoming fiscal year. In the past these meetings were held simultaneously as the City's meetings which have caused some complications for elected officials as well as staff. This meeting will allow for some preliminary discussions.

Several documents were provided all of which have been reviewed previously:

- Current year's budget – For the point of this discussion certain assumptions will have to be made as there is no sense of what the TIF funds will be this year. This is calculated based on property value, payments will be received in increments from the City and County.
- List of catalyst projects – This is where the boards has had the largest flexibility in terms of identifying what they really want to prioritize.
 - Energy Efficiency Program \$67,320
 - Downtown Matching Grant Program \$80,000
 - Highway 90 Corridor Beautification \$35,000
 - R2P2 Festival Block Concept \$22,680
 - Monroe Street Façade Program \$50,000

All projects must come within the context of the CRA Community Redevelopment Plan. State law mandates that any spending must be outlined/described in the plan.

The R2P2 Plan is estimated to be valued at \$150-250K in terms of professional services. The CRA staff and boards had the opportunity to provide input in this document. There is a definite connection between the CRA Redevelopment Plan, the R2P2 Plan and the current budget.

Chair Harris mentioned the Downtown Master Plan and the need at some point to massage all the plans and bring them together to provide a path forward. The manager pointed out that the Downtown Master Plan and CRA Redevelopment Plan were reviewed/considered in preparation of the R2P2 Plan.

Manager Nixon indicated that when having any type of budget discussions there are state considerations including an adopted plan.

Dr. Nash provided an overview/update:

- Stated that the R2P2 Plan is actually valued at over \$300K
- She is working on a grant with Rebuild Florida for \$3,000,000
 - Pre-application has been approved by the State Department of Equal Opportunity
 - Will include the event plaza, the parklets and the Gerald Gay Park
 - Will be leveraging all the current year's catalysts projects and work previously done
- Other grants will be looked at to address other areas (i.e. Tanyard Creek, Joe Adams and other CRA areas).
- Two community meetings were also held.
- Due April 16th

The goal is to set a pace so that Quincy can find its identity begin to create business and growth for itself. An event plaza helps to provide an essential place where we can have the kinds of events that will draw people and those people will patronize the businesses in that area. There has to be a reason for people to come downtown. This will also eliminate the need to use the courthouse. The event plaza opens up the possibility of restaurants and other businesses coming downtown. This comes with national recognition also. The goal is to invest now and increase private sector investment.

Dr. Nash also shared the City is getting another \$40,000 in technical assistance with the R2P2, we've gone to the next level. We're creating a regional alliance that connects us with all of the R2P2 projects, Mexico Beach, Chattahoochee, etc. This will give us opportunity for additional grants and opportunities. Trails and recreational opportunities will be looked at. In response to a question from Member Faircloth, Dr. Nash indicated that items in the CRA budget for this year as well as projects completed previously will be used as leverage for the match.

Member Faircloth pointed out that he benefits from downtown being open but the problem is there are five businesses that are open after 5pm so the majority of our tax income is coming from the other side of town. So if we are able to get grants on a consistent basis can we move some focus. We may need to look at other areas.

Member Sapp commended Dr. Nash and the manager on making sure the grants are being secured, managed properly and bringing it back to the board for review.

If this grant is received it will free up funds to address other pending projects including the completing of the

How to use the small amount of money to make the best/largest impact.

Future Priorities

Funding Requests – The manager has received funding requests from Legacy, Men of Action, Don's Hair Pair, Stewart's TV and residences.

Chair Harris asked the manager to provide a summary of residential and commercial requests. He prefers creating a program to address the need, equal opportunity for all.

Member Faircloth suggested that with programs the advisory board score applications in the and the beginning and forward wo the regular board.

Chair Harris wants to see some funds for the Tanyard Creek greenway.

Youth programming is also a part of the CRA plan.

May be able to create a non-profit plan that assists the many non-profits in working together, avoid duplication and addressing underserved communities.

Member Sapp wants to make sure the Monroe House is not forgotten.

Chair Harris asked how do we share the R2P2 document with all stakeholders. He also thanked Manager Nixon for his hard work and keeping the board on task/target. In the future he would like to use Oct/Nov/Dec as the planning phase and the last nine months for implementation.

Meeting adjourned 7:11.