
Call to Order

Chair Bass-Prieto called the meeting to order at 5:05pm.

The Quincy Community Redevelopment Agency Meeting of the Regular Board met on Tuesday, November 7, 2023, with the following present at roll call: Member Nash, Member Wood, Member Harris and Member Sapp

Also in attendance:

Manager Nixon, Admin Pam Tribue

Approval of Agenda

Member Wood leaves the meeting. Motion by Member Harris to approve the agenda for the November 7, 2023 board meeting, seconded by Chair Bass-Prieto, motion carries 4-0.

Approval of Minutes

Member Wood rejoins the meeting. Motion by Member Harris to approve the minutes of the October 10, 2023 meeting, seconded by Member Sapp, motion carries 5-0.

Financial Report

As of the October 31, 2023 statement there was a beginning balance of \$860,824.40. There were no deposits/credits, no checks/debits, service charge for \$0.00, interest paid in the amount of \$0.00, leaving an ending balance of \$860,824.40.

Member Nash inquired as to the status of the final budget report. The Manager advised that it is being compiled by City staff who are awaiting receipt of supplies (it is included as part of the City's budget).

Motion by Member Harris to approve the financial report, seconded by Member Wood, motion carries 5-0.

CRA Manager Report

- a. Public Works Improvement Completion – In FY 2022-23 \$180,000 was allocated for completion of infrastructure projects in the District. An additional \$120,000 was added the current fiscal year. Pyramid excavation was the selected bidder and work was completed early October 2023. Public Works staff verified the work was completed satisfactorily, noting the work exceeded expectations. Staff is requesting authorization to pay Pyramid Excavation invoice #42268 for \$162,916.00. *Motion by Member Harris to authorize payment of invoice #42268 for \$162,916, seconded by Member Sapp, motion carries 5-0.* Manager Nixon noted that two additional projects were completed under other grants, and he will provide the board with the details. Additionally, he will provide Member Nash with a Public Works report showing work completed in her district. There are no more drainage projects on the CRA dockets, but the City have worked on a study to identify flooding issues in District 1 & 5. Significant work has already been done.
- b. Non-profit Funding-Round 1 – A report was provided listing all organizations who submitted an application, the amount of the request, prior year's award and the recommendation for round 1. A discussion ensued. If the six recommended are approved, there will be \$30,000 available for consideration for the remaining applicants.

In response to Member Sapp's question regarding the criteria used to determine the recommended organization, Manager Nixon listed:

- What their historical contribution has been.
- Where they are now in their budget season as some projects are related to the holiday season.
- One entity is working on legal matters related to helping property owners; funding is needed to have some resources available for residents.
- The sorority has been a great partner; they continue to exceed our expectations of serving our expectations.

All approved organizations will sign an agreement detailing the scope of work/expectations are. Additionally, they will provide regular reports and provide presentations over the course of the fiscal year.

Attorney Brown joins the meeting.

There was further discussion of the applicants. Member Nash asked that impact statements be provided showing the number of citizens served in the City vs the County. The manager stressed that the entities he selected are self-sufficient and are asking for support so they can continue to serve our great City.

Motion by Member Sapp to approve Gadsden Arts Center \$10,000 in aide, seconded by Member Harris, motion carries 5-0.

Motion by Member Sapp to approve Quincy Main Street \$10,000 in aide, seconded by Member Harris, motion carries 5-0.

Motion by Member Harris to approve Gadsden County Development Council \$10,000 in aide, seconded by Member Sapp, motion carries 3-2 (Members Nash and Wood voting no). Member Nash wants a copy of the strategic plan and what they have produced.

Motion by Member Harris to approve Men of Action Toys for Tots \$10,000 in aide, seconded by Member Sapp, motion carries 5-0. Attorney Brown questioned if this meets the criteria/guidelines of removing slum or blithe. Manager Nixon will review the plan to ensure they are within the allowable expenditure guidelines.

Motion by Member Sapp to approve North Florida Legal Services \$5,000 in aid, seconded by Member Harris, motion carries 5-0.

Motion by Member Harris to approve Tau Zeta Quincy \$5,000 in aide, seconded by Member Nash, motion carries 4-0-1 (Member Sapp abstains due to conflict).

Chair Bass-Prieto asked Attorney Brown for his opinion on the applicants and their eligibility. He responded that he questions Toys for Tots and how that impacts economic development, removes slum and blithe or is neighborhood policing. He isn't familiar with Tau Zeta and would need to review their plan.

Manager Nixon and Attorney Brown will review/vet all applicants to ensure the organization's plans are in line with state requirements. Member Harris suggested that the CRA Manage in his capacity as City Manager look into some seed money for those entities that may not qualify under CRA guidelines.

- c. Energy Efficiency Program – Manager Nixon provided the program description and eligibility criteria for the pending Roof Replacement Program. If approved Staff would begin accepting applications December 2023, in January 2024 staff will advertise in local newspapers for new roofing contractors.

Board discussion/recommendations included expanding what's covered beyond roofs, establishing a maximum amount of funds per house and the thought of sweat equity versus a financial contribution. It was agreed to withdraw this item and allow the Manager to restructure it based on the comments from the board.

Special Presentation

Big Bend Community Development Corporation Regina Davis

The Florida Museum of Black History. During the last legislation session a bill was introduced to create a Florida Museum of Black History Task Force. Governor DeSantis signed the bill to go into effect July 1, 2022. The purpose of the task force is to plan for the location, design and construction of the museum and necessary facilities. Additionally, it will recommend operations and administration of the museum and develop a transition plan. The task force is required to report to the Governor by July 1st.

Ms. Davis feels this is an opportunity for Quincy/Gadsden County. She advised the board that in 2017, the non-profit form the Florida Museum of African American History. The desire was to locate the museum in Quincy because of the significance of Gadsden County being the predominantly minority county in Florida. On February 1st they purchased 5 North Madison Street specifically to house the museum. The task force met last month and the discussion was to build a huge museum, something comparable to the one in Washington DC, 250,000 sq ft with a parking garage and estimated to cost at a minimum \$60,000,000. There was discussion by the task force regarding location in Orlando, somewhere closer to the Capitol, Ms. Davis and the non-profit would like to see it in Quincy/Gadsden County. This could be a tourist attraction for us. They are suggesting the restoration of existing structures instead of new constructions. Sites for these mini museums could be the Gadsden Arts Center, Legacy School of Arts, the Leaf Theatre, Helig Myers building, Quincy Opera House, Stevens School, Arnet Chapel, Tanyard Creek. All of these could be opportunities that could be utilized to make this a tourist destination. On Monday, November 13th, between 1-4pm, the task force will be meeting at the Department of State in Tallahassee to discuss locations. Ms. Davis is requesting a letter of support from each board member and their attendance at the meeting if possible. She has spoken with the City's lobbyist Ms. Knowles who indicated that the House Representative and Senator Simon are in support of this being in this area.

Member Sapp thanked Ms. Davis for bringing this to the boards attention and agreed that it would be welcomed asset. She sees dollar signs and has a few suggestions of our viable locations. Encouraged the board to help push this and agreed to provide a letter of support.

Member Nash also thanked Ms. Davis. She is a longtime supporter of museums and African American history and feels this would be a great way to usher in the museum and increase the interest in genealogy, etc. She mentioned Dean Mitchell and Dr. LaSalle's houses (and others) as options as well. She too will provide a letter of support.

All other commissioners agreed to provide a letter of support for this project.

Attorney Comments

- Attorney Brown apologized for his tardiness as he was at an appointment that took longer than expected.

Member Harris - None

Member Wood – None

Member Sapp – The fence and walkway at Tanyard Creek Park need attention. Member Harris suggested soliciting support from the County in preparing for a possible concert in December.

Member Nash – Asked for Regina Davis' email in order to forward letter of support of project. She also asked the Manager to provide a copy of the rental agreement with GCDC and the City.

davisreginam@gmail.com

Chair Bass-Prieto – None

Motion to adjourn by Member Sapp, seconded by Member Wood, motion carries 5-0.

Meeting adjourns at 5:55pm.