MINUTES

COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT/HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOARD
SEPTEMBER 4, 2018 AT 4:00PM
CITY COMMISSION CHAMBERS
121 S.W. FLAGLER AVE.
STUART, FLORIDA 34994

COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT BOARD MEMBERS
Chair – Drew Pittman
Vice Chair – Chris Lewis
Board Member – Frank Wacha
Board Member – Mac Stout
Board Member – Pete Walson
Board Member – Vacant
Board Member – John Gonzalez

ADMINISTRATIVE
Development Director, Kev Freeman
CRA Administrator, Pinal Gandhi-Savdas
Board Secretary, Michelle Vicat

CALL TO ORDER **4:02 PM**

4:02 PM Roll Call.

Present: John Gonzalez, Pete Walson, Drew Pittman, Chris Lewis, Frank Wacha Absent: Mac Stout.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC (5 min. max)

COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD MEMBERS

Pete Walson apologized for missing the last meeting and said when he looked over the budget he saw a lot of large projects still sitting on the CIP list and would like to see some smaller, productive, revenue generating projects that can help around town and use some monies to also improve MLK properties and said that is just one sample from the CIP projects as there is a lot of money there.

Kev Freeman, Development Director said they recently incorporated the CRA into the Development Department and he intends to have staff get out into the neighborhoods which is a way of getting the neighborhoods involved in projects and thought that is one of the things that has been missing. He said the board will see a program come forward where they will be reaching out to neighborhoods

regarding improvement projects. He wants revolving interaction between the CRA and the neighborhoods.

John Gonzalez said a few weeks ago they had a presentation on the Riverwalk Stage and he had mentioned the yellow safety paint is deteriorating and he had a bit of a fall and within 48 hours he received a picture that it had been painted by Public Works.

Pinal Gandhi-Savdas said she has incorporated $100,000 into the budget for neighborhood improvements.

OTHER MATTERS BEFORE THE BOARD

1. Lyric Theatre Façade Preservation Grant Update

PRESENTATION: Pinal Gandhi-Savdas, CRA Administrator
Kai Fontaine, Executive Director of the Lyric Theatre

2. Resolution No. 07-2018 Proposed amendment to the Business Improvement Reimbursement Program Guidelines

PRESENTATION: Pinal Gandhi-Savdas, CRA Administrator

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC (5 min. max): None

COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD MEMBERS

Pete Walson thought this was a good step forward considering the pole signs will need to be removed and thought considering how many pole signs there are, he suggested the commission look at this and possibly grandfather everything on US1. He said there are many streets that are important because a huge amount of money is being spent on them and thought we should prioritize them as streets where the pole signs need to come down.

John Gonzalez asked for confirmation on what a pole is and what the rationale for removing them was.

Pinal Gandhi-Savdas described a pole sign and said the hurricane of 2007 prompted this.

Frank Wacha asked why they weren't grandfathered in.

Pinal Gandhi-Savdas said she wasn't sure why, but they weren't.

Drew Pittman said he personally thought the downtown businesses got crushed and asked if anything was done for businesses on Osceola after the streets were closed for a while for repair.

Chris Lewis said they discussed that at the last meeting.

John Gonzalez said the businesses were notified and the DBA was a proponent of the improvements.

Pete Walson said in 2016 Terry O'Neil was within 2 days of sending a notification to all the businesses stating they would have to pay a fine of $50 a day until the signs were replaced.

4:16 PM Motion: Action: Approve, Moved by John Gonzalez, Seconded by Frank Wacha. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Resolution No. 09-2018 CRA Proposed Mural Matching Grant Program

PRESENTATION: Pinal Gandhi-Savdas, CRA Administrator

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC (5 min. max): None

COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD MEMBERS

Pete Walson asked if this was like the Business Improvement Program where it operated for 6 months.

John Gonzalez concern was "what is art" which is a challenge and would like to see a committee of artists review them and didn't want to see strong political etc. messages and was concerned about giving people a blank canvas that they had to judge and was concerned how they governed the message of the art and thought they needed more definitive rules.

Pinal Gandhi-Savdas said perhaps they could have Nancy Terrell of the Arts Council review the art prior to coming to the board.

John Gonzalez thought they needed a committee.

Frank Wacha said the board is going to have to act more responsibly and getting recommendations from artists would make the process better.

John Gonzalez thought it would be better to go through a public committee before coming to the board.

Pete Walson said this came up because he spoke to Mike Mortell and what came out of it was they would have to become art experts, set up a sub-committee or tell people no. The attorney said it was within the pervue of the board to set up a committee.

Kev Freeman said he tended to move away from the creation of another board due to attendance issues etc. He said in development review they consult a number of people and thought they could consult artists for the review. He suggested bringing a list of art consultants to the board for approval.

Jim Chrulski, Community Services Director gave the board his art background then said it was pretty simple to distinguish art as long as you have criteria established, which he can help them with if they choose.

John Gonzalez asked staff to develop criteria that protects the public.

Pinal Gandhi-Savdas said she won't take it to commission until after she brings it back to them.

Pete Walson said Stuart used to be known as the tree city and didn't think they had really addressed trees in the City of Stuart in the last 10 years and in part of beautification it might be a good idea to start a tree program.

Frank Wacha said they have a tree fund, but wasn't sure if there was money in it.

Kev Freeman said in the CRA and Development Department when they do work in a right of way they should do so in an environmentally conscious way to enhance the environment through rain gardens etc.

Frank Wacha said when Kev was with the county, he created a book on Storm water enhancement.

Kev Freeman said it's on Amazon and suggested the board go to Palm City to look at the rain garden created in a right of way on Mapp Road.

4:36 PM **Motion: Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Pete Walson, **Seconded by** Chris Lewis. Motion passed unanimously.

5:03 PM Motion: Action: Adjourn, Moved by Frank Wacha, Seconded by Pete Walson. Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVED **RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED**

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Drew Pittman, Chair Michelle Vicat, Board Secretary