City of Stuart

MINUTES

COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT/HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOARD
MAY 7, 2019 AT 4:00PM
CITY COMMISSION CHAMBERS
121 S.W. FLAGLER AVE.
STUART, FLORIDA 34994

COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT BOARD MEMBERS
Chair – Chris Lewis
Vice Chair – Frank Wacha
Board Member – Faye James
Board Member – Tom Campenni
Board Member – Pete Walson
Board Member – Cristina Maldonado
Board Member – Nathan Ritchey

ADMINISTRATIVE
Development Director, Kev Freeman
CRA Administrator, Pinal Gandhi-Savdas
Board Secretary, Jordan Pinkston

CALL TO ORDER **4:00 PM**

ROLL CALL **4:00 PM Roll Call.**
Present: Pete Walson, Chris Lewis, Tom Campenni, Cristina Maldonado, Faye James, Nathan Ritchey. Absent: Frank Wacha

City Attorney Mike Mortell swore in Faye James, Board Member.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES **4:01 PM**
Motion: Action: Approve, **Moved by** Tom Campenni, **Seconded by** Pete Walson. Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA
Motion: Action: Approve, **Moved by** Tom Campenni, **Seconded by** Pete Walson. Motion passed unanimously.

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

COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD MEMBERS

Pete Walson said the board discussed the bike paths at the joint meeting and the safety and when he went to Aldi's DOT put a bike path just north of Aldi's on the east side of US1. If anyone wanted to see what it looked like.

Faye James noticed that as well and thought it was wonderful.

OTHER MATTERS BEFORE THE BOARD

1. Presentation of the proposed median landscape plan for NW Federal Highway.

PRESENTATION: Pinal Gandhi-Savdas, CRA Administrator
Brian Good, Kimley-Horn

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

COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD MEMBERS

Chris Lewis reminded the board that they were not going to vote on this matter, we are only giving our feedback today. He asked how long the project was going to take. Does it finish in February of 2020?

Brian Good responded yes.

Tom Campenni thought it was a nice project and if they had unlimited amounts of money they should go for it, but this this is the exact reason why the state wants to take CRAs away. He said we are going to spend $143,000 of CRA funds for this. It seems to me that the CRA says that this week we are going to put sidewalks in here, next week we will put planters up. I do not see what are plan is for the City and how we are going to spend this money over the next 9 years to make Stuart more economically viable. I don't see it. I would like to bring attention that this is what the CRA is supposed to do. If we keep spending money here and there we are not going to have funds available to us to do something like the Triangle, which was a great CRA project and brought us tax money. This is going to bring us absolutely nothing. When we need money to do projects like that we will not have the money. While we are not voting on it and it is a beautiful plan, we need to figure out what we want the CRA to be.

Pete Walson said to some degree Tom was right and they should look at the economic impact of what the CRA projects do and how we spend our money on them. He is right that this is why they want to stop them. He thought they should be more realistic of what they do with capital construction funds. When we approve capital budgets, I have been looking at a parking garage for a long, long time. At some point we need to look at our funds coming in over the next 9 years, projects such as these should not even be on the capital construction because we will not be able to fund it and it will not be economically feasible. This is the criteria we need this year when we approach the budget on construction budgets. It is going to benefit the City economically and is it achievable with the funds we have. Some of the things we have done are beautiful and foster growth, but some have not. We need to be more realistic. However, this project is part of the Gateway Project to beautify the entry

way to Stuart. This landscape is step one and step two is signage. For this reason, I have no problem with it. This project was beautifully done by the way Mr. Horn.

Mike Mortell read the portion of the CRA Plan describing what the goal of the plan is on page 4. The goals of the City of Stuart Community Redevelopment Plan are to achieve the following objectives: To provide an analysis and an identification of the opportunities available in development terms and to identify a short, mid and long term time frame in which to achieve the implementation of the plan; To facilitate economic development and revitalization to ensure the City of Stuart CRA sustains its economic viability and competitiveness. To create building forms of a character and scale which complement the City's small town feel. To create attractive pedestrian and bicycle friendly streets complimented by building forms and enhanced by public art that act as a strong link between the different neighborhoods. To promote mixed uses throughout the CRA, particularly where commercial activity is desirable at the street level. Implement a coordinated effort to design complete street sections that have convenient parking in discrete locations and promote and support transit alternatives. Improve the public's understanding of the CRA mission, accomplishments and community assets through public outreach efforts and marketing. Attract and retain a diverse range of businesses including restaurants, boutique hotels, retail and high-tech industry. To provide a document that works as a tool to effectively redevelop and revitalize the City of Stuart CRA. He mentioned this because this is appropriate and falls into the CRA plan and at the same time I agree with Campenni that the CRA or CRB board is a little bigger. He asked are you just going to do landscaping or capital improvements, or are you going to do both? This does meet within the legal confides of the plan. He encouraged the board to read the CRA plan and understand the mission.

Cristina Maldonado asked if the 900 feet outside of the CRA is redeveloped with CRA funding or is it a different set of funding.

Pinal Gandhi-Savdas that is why they identified the tree fund, which would pay for the remaining portion even though it is only $60,000.

Chris Lewis thought this was a beautiful project, but he echoes the issues with fellow board members regarding costs. When I saw this I was reminded of what we approved last year with the East Ocean Plan. To me I would rather see that first than rather something in the Jensen Beach area. With that being said, we know how traffic is and beautification might be nice if we had an unlimited about of money.

Faye James said as a driver around town and highways she was worried about blind spots and didn't know if was taken into consideration.

Brian Good said all the landscape improvements are within the median. The state requires us to meet demonstrate and evaluate sight lines, so nothing would be deemed a sight impediment. In addition to sightlines there is a billboard zone that we have to make sure we are not obscuring any sightlines.

Pete Walson asked what kind of tree was in the plan.

Brian Good said it was an oriental tree to provide an entry way feature with a nice esthetic element.

Nathan Ritchey asked if commission was going to vote on this.

Pinal Gandhi-Savdas said it would go to the CRA next for final approval.

2. Resolution No. 49-2019; a resolution of the Community Redevelopment Board of the City of Stuart, Florida, granting a minor urban code conditional use approval for public artwork

required as a condition of development for the Harbor Chase Assisted Living Facility CPUD to CDHRA (Stuart) LLC, owner of the property located at 650 NW Fork Road in the City of Stuart, as described within the attached legal description; granting approval to position bronze statues of children playing in and around a water feature and along the front lawn of the project; providing an effective date; providing for conditions of approval; and for other purposes.

PRESENTATION: Tom Reetz, Senior Planner
Ted Lodigensky, Confluent Development, LLC

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

COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD MEMBERS

Pete Walson asked for Ted Lodigensky to locate the statues on the plan. My comments go to the public aspect of the art, not quality because it is a beautiful plan and bronze statues are a feature in a lot of cities. He asked if the third statue could be seen by the public and if it was accessible. He asked if the fountain was accessible to the public, if not that is a concern. He asked if there was a sidewalk on both sides of the project.

Ted Lodigensky said there is a sidewalk there but one side is inside the bridge and separated from the property line.

Pete Walson said he would be happy with the plan if he felt that it met the public accessabilyt aspect in his mind and the fountain is an attractive public art. He noticed that in the front there is sod and would be happier if it was moved back and benches with a patio were added by the fountain.

Ted Lodigensky said he did not disagree.

Chris Lewis asked the scale of the statues.

Ted Lodigensky said they are the size of kids. You will notice them.

Chris Lewis asked if the scale of them were for walkers or those that drive by too.

Ted Lodigensky said you will notice them, they are significant and life size.

MOTION

4:39 PM **Motion: Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Tom Campenni, **Seconded by** Pete Walson. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Business Improvement Reimbursement Program. Second grant cycle (Jan 2019 – April 2019) – New applicants for FY 2018-19

PRESENTATION: Pinal Gandhi-Savdas, CRA Administrator

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

COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD MEMBERS

Chris Lewis asked if there were any applicants in the room and called for Luna's Italian Cuisine.

Tim Horton from Luna's stepped forward and introduced himself.

Pete Walson asked if he was just improving the awning and if he was going to change the color or make it new.

Tim Horton responded that as of right now they are keeping the color.

Chris Lewis called for Crump's Lawn Equipment's applicant to step forward.

Dan Divan from Crump's Lawn stepped forward and said he recently purchased the property last November and began to explain improvements he has made to the property thus far. He is glad to have the opportunity to do this.

Faye James asked if the candidate would be moving the monument sign from the current location.

Dan Divan said that he intended to keep it right there because it works for occupants of the building.

Faye James said she agreed and thought it was in a good location.

Pete Walson said he was concerned that if the monument sign was kept in the same location that is might end up not being seen from the turn. An example was ABC liquor; it is no longer visible because of the landscaping code and is blocked by trees.

Dan Divan explained that the existing trees are above head high.

Pete Walson said that it was just a warning for monument signs.

Dan Divan agreed and plans to add additional shrubs for a nice transition.

Pinal Gandhi-Savdas explained that applicants will have to still go through the permit process so staff will look at these types of details.

Chris Lewis said he did not see any applicants from the Colorado Inn Hotel and asked the applicant for Auto Experts to step forward.

Bill Kruger from Auto Experts said he acquired the building January 1st and is looking to improve this building, since it is one of the worst in the area. He described the area where the store was located.

Faye James asked if there was more walkway on Florida.

Bill Kruger explained that there was a narrow walkway that was probably only 2.5 feet wide. He plans to change where the entrance of the building is located.

Faye James said that would be a good idea due to traffic.

Bill Kruger explained the other improvements they plan on doing and some of the issues they are currently having.

Faye James asked if there would still be parking on the side where his garage doors are on Florida.

Bill Kruger said there is a little over two years left on the lease so we do not have any plans for that yet.

Faye James said great idea.

Pete Walson asked Pinal to see an after like they used to receive.

Chris Lewis said that he thinks it is going to be nice and they have already improved the cleaners and art supply shop. This will add to it as well. He asked for the applicant representing Elle Salon to step forward.

Chris Lewis said no one was here from Elle Salon, so let's move forward with a vote.

MOTION

Crump's Lawn Equipment Center
Motion: Action: Approve.
Chris Lewis: Yes
Cristina Maldonado: Yes
Nathan Ritchey: Yes
Tom Campenni: No
Pete Walson: Yes
Faye James: Yes
Motion passed 6-1.

Luna's Italian Cuisine
Motion: Action: Approve.
Chris Lewis: Yes
Cristina Maldonado: Yes
Nathan Ritchey: Yes
Tom Campenni: No
Pete Walson: Yes
Faye James: Yes
Motion passed 6-1.

Old Colorado Inn
Motion: Action: None.

Auto Experts
Motion: Action: Approve.
Chris Lewis: Yes
Cristina Maldonado: Yes
Nathan Ritchey: Yes
Tom Campenni: No
Pete Walson: Yes
Faye James: Yes
Motion passed 6-1.

Elle Salon
Motion: Action: None.

Chris Lewis said the ones we do not have motions on we are passing on.

Tom Campenni said he voted no because government should not be giving money to business to spruce up, unless we can give it to everyone in the City and he knows the CRA cannot do that.

Pete Walson said the improvements for the businesses probably should have been done by the businesses themselves but they should follow the direction of the commission to make sure it works. Thank you to Pinal for going out into the community and finding people to apply for the grant. If there was a substantial difference he would have like to see some indication of what they are heading towards. He would like to see more input of suggestions to applicants to improve projects further.

Nathan Ritchey said they are sitting on a board that is allocating funds for a city that has decided to incentivize people to improve their property and they offer this incentive in this manner. He is confused why Tom Campenni is sitting on a board that is doing what he explained but he does not agree with the process. He said he thinks it is ironic.

STAFF UPDATE

Pinal Gandhi-Savdas said moving forward projects will be identifying projects in CRA plan. It is a work in progress.

Kev Freeman said they would like to bring more of a program to the board, possibly by next month. We are trying to shift direction and you will see more proactivity moving forward in how we relate to economic development in the City.

Mike Mortell explained the reason behind the upcoming board luncheon.

ADJOURNMENT 5:07 PM **Motion: Action:** Adjourn**, Moved by** Pete Walson, **Seconded by** Nathan Ritchey. Motion passed unanimously.

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Chris Lewis, Chair Jordan Pinkston, Board Secretary