



COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
MARCH 20, 2018
5:30 P.M.

PRESENT: Chairman Eddie Cole, **Vice Chairman**, Donovan Williams, **Director** Theo Washington, **Director** Rodney Daniels; **Director** Brent Gardner; **Director** Tarus Mack, and **Director**, Marilyn Davis-Sconions (**telephone**). **Also, in attendance:** CRA **Attorney** Greg Jackson, Cathlene Williams, **Town Clerk**, Jasyme Reese, and **CRA Director**, James Benderson.

Chairman Cole called the CRA Meeting to order at 5:30 PM, Director Mack led the Prayer, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

- I. **CALL TO ORDER AND VERIFICATION OF QUORUM**
- II. **INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- III. **PRESENTATIONS**
- IV. **CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Approval of February 20, 2018 CRA Minutes.** Motion by Director Mack to approve the February 20, 2018 CRA minutes, the motion was seconded by Director Gardner; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES.**

Director Washington asked Mr. Benderson why the lot on West Kennedy Boulevard hasn't, where the house was torn down the debris has not been removed; Mr. Benderson replied he does not know why; but he will get this taken care of. Director Washington asked would it be another month before this is clean? Chairman Cole stated the work order will be put in, this is the best we can do.

A. Old Business

- i. **Gateway Lighting Upgrade.** Mr. Benderson stated that the lights are not working right now, he has received quotes to have them replaced; also some of the lights in the medium are not working.

B. New Business

- i. **Home Emergency Lock Box Funding Request-** Deputy Jenkins updated the Board on the program that Councilwoman Davis asked him to look into; that the City of Maitland and Casselberry for senior citizens where the police department uses forged funds to purchase lock boxes for seniors, to be able to enter into their home, in case of the resident not being able to open their doors; the lock box with a combination will be installed, the only person that will have the combination is the homeowner and the police department, that information will be stored in a comp center. Chairman Cole asked that we receive statistics from these Cities, bring back the information for the April, 2018 meeting. **NO ACTION BY THE BOARD.**



- ii. **Streetscape Landscaping-** Director Gardner suggested that plants that can within stand the Florida hot weather be installed on the streetscape, replacing the greenery that is there now, it will be less maintenance. Director Washington suggested to have more grass and less plants to cut down on maintenance. **NO ACTION BY THE BOARD.**
- iii. **Façade Grant Application, 306 Lemon Street:** Chairman Cole put a motion on the floor to relocate the previous approved Grant from 213 Calhoun to the applicant at 306 Lemon Street not to exceed \$3,000 per applicant as adopted by CRA Resolution #2017-02; the motion was moved by Director Washington and seconded by Director Mack; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES.**
- iv. **Beautification Award-** for residential homes; CRA will be working on a program to present to the Board.

6. **DIRECTORS REPORT**

7. **STAFF COMMENTS**

- a. **Annual Report**
- b. **Streetscape Plans**
- c. **Cost Sharing Policy**

Vice Chairman Williams- Did the CRA Board authorize the creation of the 501 (C)- 3, and who are the members on the 501 (C)-3 Board, and how were they chosen; Mr. Benderson replied yes, the Board authorized this; the people that were chosen to be on this Board were individuals that had the time to serve. Vice Chairman Williams asked were CRA funds used to create the 501 (C)-3; Mr. Benderson replied Yes, about \$890.00, these funds will be returned to the CRA in about two (2) months. Vice Chairman Williams asked is there any financial oversight within this non-profit. Mr. Benderson replied we are actively looking for a CPA to handle the finances. Director Williams asked Mr. Benderson to provide the Board with his goals and objectives for this year; outline of everything that you have done, since you have been employed as the CRA Director for over a year; are we actively seeking any businesses to come to Eatonville. Mr. Benderson replied we are working on Tech businesses coming to Town, I have reached out to at least two (2) coffee companies to come to Eatonville. Mr. Benderson will provide the Board of Directors an outline for the projects.

Director Washington- where are we with the CRA Advisory Board; Mr. Benderson replied that once the applications come in, and the CRA Board appoint the Advisory Board, we can move forward with that. Also, will we get a separate auditor for the CRA Board? Attorney Jackson will give this information during his report.

Director Daniels- We have to have respect and relationships on this Board, there are certain things you can do, and certain ways that you can go about doing them; I was once one of those people that would ambush the department director to make them look bad, we can all work together.



Director Mack- give thanks to Director Sconions and Deputy Jenkins for initiating the senior lock box program, I think its necessary considering the number of seniors we have, we also have a lot of disabled citizens that will benefit from this program as well. I would also like to see more people take advantage of the facade grants that we have, we need to do more to get the information out that this program exists.

Director Sconions- thanked Deputy Jenkins for following through on the lock box program for the Seniors; and thanks to Mr. Benderson for bringing this to the CRA.

Director Gardner- NO REPORT

Chairman Cole- We had a third meeting with Macedonia on the affordable homes, they have 12 properties, they are ready to go; there are a couple more things to put in place, all the Pastors will be getting together to deal with some of the homeless families in the Town. Also, we are looking to receive a \$700,000 Grant from USDA.

Attorney Jackson- Congratulations to Chairman Cole, Director Daniels, and Director Washington on your recent election win. On June 25, 2018 I have been asked to come speak at Bethune Cookman University, based on some of the work that I have done, and based on some of the projects in Eatonville; and how these projects can assist with the reduction of crime in certain communities. The house bill regarding CRA's failed, this bill may come back up.

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS-

Angie Gardner- on the lock box program, part of the information for the seniors that may have health concerns; is it possible that Winter Park Health Foundation can help with that cost; and if the streetscape jobs are going to go out to bid, will you make this information available to the businesses that are already doing landscape work in the Town? On the Advisory Board Application, do you have to be invited to apply?

Michelle Fort- thank you for being a public servant for the Town of Eatonville; I agree with Vice Chairman Williams, we are supposed to be transparent open Government, without monthly newsletters, email blasts, no one knows what's going on in the Town. The Town should be doing affordable housing, not our Churches; we need more growth for our Town; and education, also what are our local commissioners doing for the Town.

9. ADJOURNMENT- Meeting adjourned at 6:20 PM

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY

Cathlene Williams, Town Clerk