

**CITY OF CORAL SPRINGS COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
SPECIAL ELECTRONIC MEETING
PURSUANT TO THE STATE OF FLORIDA EXECUTIVE ORDER No. 20-69
Monday, October 26, 2020**

Board Chair John Walsh called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. The meeting was held virtually via ZOOM. Kristi Bartlett called the roll of the Board Members.

John Walsh, Chair	Present
Germain Bebe	Absent
Lorna Brown-Burton	Present
Andrew Kasten, Vice Chair	Present
Allan Koch	Present
William Vasquez	Present

Also in attendance:

Kristi Bartlett, Director, Econ. Development
Vanessa Steinerts, CRA Counsel
Diana Scarpetta, ED Coordinator
Yuu Soubra, ED Coordinator
Melissa Heller, DCM
Joshua Simmons, Commissioner
George Rahael, Developer
Gisele Rahael, Developer
Michael Rahael, Developer

A moment of silence was held.

All persons in attendance rose for the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Citizens' Comments: No citizen comments.

2. Special Announcements/Comments:

- Chair Walsh informed the Board that the next CRA meeting will take place in the Commission Chambers. DCM Heller welcomed the Board back at City Hall.

3. Approval of Meeting Summary:

- September 29, 2020

Action: Board member Bill Vasquez moved, seconded by Board member Brown-Burton, to accept the meeting minutes. The motion was approved unanimously (5-0).

4. Monthly Budget Update

- Director Bartlett provided an overview of the Budget report. She explained that a few purchase orders have been opened and a couple more will be opened soon for CRA Property Enhancement Grants. The grant agreement for Belle Terre will be coming back for the Board's approval since a new contractor needs to be selected.

Action: Board member Koch moved, seconded by Board member Kasten, to accept the monthly budget update. The motion was approved unanimously (6-0).

5. Village Square Update

- Director Bartlett mentioned that a press release was sent out regarding a new letter of understanding between Village Square and the City. George Rahael and his team attended the meeting to provide an overview of the project. Mr. Rahael mentioned that he expects to have a site plan soon to be able to share the vision of the project which comprises the Old City Hall parcel and Village Square. The project will have an internal street that connects University Drive to Coral Hills Drive, a parking garage and limited surface parking. Anticipated components include a grocer, residential units, retail and entertainment in a welcoming environment to attract visitors. Mr. Rahael currently has contracts with all the owners of the smaller properties of Village Square. The Developing group will come back to the Board to request a TIF rebate when the site plan is ready.

6. Cornerstone Project Update

- Director Bartlett shared the project timeline which highlighted the project's milestones and major tasks. DCM Heller discussed the demolition process and added that a Kickoff Celebration will be held.

7. Visioning Session Update

- Chair Walsh spoke very highly of the first consultant that was interviewed for the upcoming Visioning Session. Director Bartlett mentioned that two more consultants will be interviewed in the upcoming weeks.

8. Meeting schedule for FY21

- December meeting will be scheduled for the 7th at 5:30 PM. Director Bartlett will send a calendar invite for all meetings.

9. Outdoor Seating/Art Walk Activation

- Director Bartlett mentioned that the Art Walk is underutilized. Staff is proposing to install outdoor seating throughout the Art Walk to generate interest and encourage people to go outside. Further, Ms. Bartlett has communicated with the new Museum Director to brainstorm and get ideas to bring people to the Art Walk. DCM Heller mentioned that Park Pavilions are still closed because of Covid-19 and installing outdoor seating at the Art Walk can be done after the pandemic is over. Adding shading to the seating elements is ideal to protect individuals from the sun and the rain.

10. Other Business

- **Cares Act Grant Fund:** The City will launch the Small Business Grant Program in which eligible small businesses that have experienced a financial loss due to the COVID-19 crisis will receive a \$5,000 grant. Grant funds may be spent on lease or mortgage payments, staff payroll, utilities, insurance, inventory and business supplies. The goal is to help 140 businesses. Funds must be spent by December 10, 2020.
- **Other CRAs Completed Projects:** Director Bartlett suggested field trips with Board Members to other CRA's in the tri-County area to see other CRA completed projects and explore new ideas for Coral Springs. Board members valued the idea and look forward to it.
- **Local Incentives:** Director Bartlett mentioned that during the December meeting she will be presenting to the City Commission for their consideration two proposed incentive programs. The two programs are aimed to begin in January 2021 and will offer 1). 50% and up to \$50,000 for redevelopment projects in the City, and 2). Funds to cover permit fees for up to \$50,000. These programs will be funded by the City and not the CRA.
- **Rental and Utilities Assistance Program:** DCM Heller mentioned the recently released program under the Cares Act to assist residents of the City with up to \$10,000 per household to cover rental expenses and unpaid utilities due to hardship caused by Covid-19. Funds must be spent by December 10, 2020 and the City received close to \$910,000 for this program.
- Chair Walsh is very impressed and content with the relationship between the Administration and the Board. He deeply appreciates the cooperation, involvement and good communication between the two. He complemented Staff and is very pleased with the Cornerstone project moving forward, and Village Square moving along too.
- Board Member Kasten expressed to the Board to start thinking about the TIF rebate to be requested by Village Square.

11. Adjournment

- There being no additional business, the meeting adjourned at 5:13 PM.

DATE APPROVED/ACCEPTED

**JOHN M. WALSH, J.D., BOARD CHAIRPERSON
CRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**KRISTI BARTLETT, CEcD
DIRECTOR, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
CITY OF CORAL SPRINGS**