

The Board of Commissioners of the City of Camden Redevelopment Agency met on Thursday, September 4, 2014, at Camden City Hall, 16th Floor Conference Room, 520 Market Street, Camden, New Jersey.

Chair Marilyn Torres called the meeting to order at approximately 6:35 PM. Interim Board Clerk Sulena Robinson-Rivera called roll.

Present: MT, VB, KH, MN, and JV
Absent/Excused: EG

Attendees: Saundra Ross Johnson, Mark Asselta, Johanna Conyer, Olivette Simpson, Sulena Robinson-Rivera, Joshua A. Warner, CRA, and LaVerne Williams of Branch Village

Mrs. Robinson-Rivera advised the Board that, pursuant to the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act, adequate notice(s) had been posted in the Courier-Post and the Philadelphia Inquirer as well as in the Office of the City Clerk.

Review of Minutes

Date of Meetings-August 7, 2014 and August 13, 2014

Motion:

Ayes:

Nays: Abstentions:

Comments:

There were no comments or questions.

Executive Director's Report

Date of Meeting-September 4, 2014

Motion:

Ayes:

Nays: Abstentions:

Comments:

In addition to the previously submitted written report, Executive Director Saundra Ross Johnson acknowledged the birthday of, Director of Finance, Johanna Conyer, as well as the transition of the Interim Board Clerk Sulena Robinson-Rivera. A formal welcome and introduction of newly appointed Commissioner Mirta Nieves was made as well as the request to be sensitive of the use of acronyms to assist with the learning curve and acclimation of her understanding of redevelopment.

An update of the Mt. Ephraim CHOICE Transformation Plan was provided. The CRA has been working with the City of Camden and the Housing Authority of the City of Camden October 11, 2014 is the date the group will submit the final application for \$30M to HUD. The CRA is also involved in preparation of an application to the USEPA AWP (United States Environmental Protection Act Area Wide Planning) Grant \$200,000 due September 22, 2014. The focus of the grant is to environmental studies of sites and prioritization of the sites for redevelopment. If awarded, this grant will complement the Mt. Ephraim CHOICE Transformation Plan. Additionally the CRA lost a member of staff, Redevelopment Assistant Ronicia Solla, by way of layoff recall back to work for the City of Camden, Department of Code Enforcement.

Information about the temporary pop-up park at Roosevelt Plaza Park which was funded by the William Penn Foundation. The park, which includes colorful tables, chairs, shading, minor landscaping improvements, public art, and lighting, will be up until December 2015. Similar to other pop-up spaces in other postindustrial cities, the purpose of the park is to encourage residents, visitors, employees and students to spend time outside in the city and also to create safe public spaces in downtown.

Allied Barton security's role was described to all.

Presentation of Lanning Square RFP was made by Josh Warner, CRA intern.

Resolutions for Review and Action

09-10-14A Resolution Authorizing a Professional Services Agreement with Brinkerhoff Environmental Services, Inc. to Complete a Preliminary Assessment / ASTM Phase I Assessment of Block 62, Lot 11 of the City of Camden Tax Map (120 Linden Street) for a Cost Not to Exceed \$3,000

Motion:

Ayes:

Nays:

Abstentions:

Comments:

09-10-14B Resolution Authorizing a Professional Services Agreement with Langan Engineering and Environmental Services, Inc. to Complete a Preliminary Assessment / ASTM Phase I Assessment & Site Investigation of Block 65, Lot 103 of the City of Camden Tax Map (320 N. 2nd Street) for a Cost Not to Exceed \$37,000

Motion:

Ayes:

Nays:

Abstentions:

Comments:

09-10-14C Resolution Authorizing Acceptance of Block 181, Lots 81 and 82 (218 So. 5th Street and 216 So. 5th Street) as Designated on the Camden City Tax Map and located in the Lanning Square Redevelopment Area from the Housing Authority of the City of Camden for Nominal Consideration

Motion:

Ayes:

Nays:

Abstentions:

Comments:

09-10-14D Resolution Authorizing a Pre-Qualified List of Title Companies for the City of Camden Redevelopment Agency for a Period of One Year Effective October 1, 2014 – October 1, 2015

Motion:

Ayes:

Nays:

Abstentions:

Comments:

09-10-14E **Resolution Authorizing a Pre-Qualified List of Appraisal Companies for the City of Camden Redevelopment Agency for a Period of One Year Effective October 1, 2014 – October 1, 2015**

Motion:

Ayes:

Nays:

Comments:

Abstentions:

09-10-14F **Resolution Authorizing an Application for and Acceptance of a Grant in the Amount of \$100,000 from the Hazardous Discharge Site Remediation Fund for Site Investigation/Remedial Investigation of the Proposed North Camden Waterfront Park (known as Block 4, Lot 54, Block 746 Lots 17, 18, 24, 25, 33, and Block 747, Lot 1 (partial) of the Camden City Tax Map)**

Motion:

Ayes:

Nays:

Comments:

Abstentions:

Chairperson's Remarks and Observations

Public Comments

Old Business

New Business

None

Executive Session

None

Adjournment