

The Board of Commissioners of the City of Camden Redevelopment Agency held the **Monthly Caucus on Wednesday, March 3, 2021** via teleconference.

Vice Chairperson Ian K. Leonard called the meeting to order at approximately 6:01 PM. Interim Board Clerk Carla Rhodes called roll.

Present: Derek Davis, Gilbert Harden, Jr., Ian K. Leonard, Jose Javier Ramos and Maria Sharma
Absent: Marilyn Torres
Attendees: Olivette Simpson, Mark Asselta, Carla Rhodes, Donna Arthur-Pettigrew, Sulena Robinson-Rivera CRA and Shon Jablonsky of Apple Tree Homes

Ms. Rhodes advised the Board that, pursuant to the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act, adequate notice(s) had been posted in the Courier-Post, the Philadelphia Inquirer, the CRA website, and the Office of the Municipal Clerk.

Review of Minutes

Dates of Meeting: February 3 and February 10, 2021

Motion: Ayes:

Nays: Abstentions:

Comments: There were no comments or questions.

Interim Executive Director's Report

Dates of Meeting: February 3 and February 10, 2021

Motion: Ayes:

Nays: Abstentions:

Comments: Interim Executive Director Olivette Simpson will give a full report at the Regular Monthly Meeting. Ms. Simpson updated attendees about Board Chair Marilyn Torres' illness and well wishes were sent. She also informed of Commissioner Gilbert Harden's recent loss. Attendees were invited to observe a moment of silence in recognition of Commissioner Harden's sister.

Redevelopment Project Presentations:

None.

Resolutions for Review and Action to be taken at the Caucus Board Meeting

03-03-21A Resolution Amending Resolution 09-14-16C to Reduce the Amount of the City of Camden Redevelopment Agency Loan from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund from \$790,603.00 to \$586,000.00 and Authorizing the City of Camden Redevelopment Agency to Return to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency the Unexpended Portion of the Loan Drawdown for the Environmental Cleanup of the ABC Barrel

Motion: GH, MS Ayes: DD, GH, IL, JR and MS

Nays: Abstentions:

03-03-21A (cont'd)

Comments: Ms. Simpson stated that the Board approved a USEPA RLF Loan under two separate Resolutions for the ABC Barrel Site. The total amount expended was less than the amount approved and the remediation of the site. Some \$87,704.29 remains. As part of the EPA disposition of excess loan funds process, the funds are to be returned to EPA. Once EPA accepts them, the funds will be returned to CRA and available for reuse in other projects. This Resolution decreases the loan amount and returns unexpended funds to EPA for this site. Mr. Asselta called for final action to be taken to help expedite the process.

Commissioner Maria Sharma asked if she is to abstain from voting. Mr. Asselta announced Ms. Sharma's position as a new City of Camden employee and advised her, because of her position, to abstain from voting on matters pertaining to the City.

There were no further comments or questions.

03-10-21B Resolution Authorizing a Subgrant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund in the Amount of \$200,000 for the Environmental Cleanup of the Knox Meadows Phase II Site in the North Camden Brownfield Development Area (Block 746, Lots 26 & 46 and a Portion of Lots 17, 18, & 25 of the City of Camden Tax Map)

Motion:

Ayes:

Nays:

Abstentions:

Comments: Ms. Simpson stated that a sub-grant is needed to meet the match funding requirements for remediation grants to the project under the NJDEP and NJEDA programs. The Finance Committee will review and provide its recommendations at the Regular Monthly Meeting.

There were no further comments or questions.

03-10-21C Resolution Authorizing an Amendment to a Shared Services Agreement with the City of Camden for the Management of a US Environmental Protection Agency Brownfields Revolving Loan Subgrant for the Remediation of the Knox Meadows Phase II Site in the North Camden Brownfield Development Area (Block 746, Lots 26 & 46 and a Portion of Lots 17, 18, & 25)

Motion:

Ayes:

Nays:

Abstentions:

Comments: Ms. Simpson stated that an existing Shared Services Agreement with the City will be amended to include the monitoring of the \$200,000.00 Sub-Grant. If approved by CRA's Board, the matter will proceed to the Camden City Council for approval.

There were no further comments or questions.

03-10-21D Resolution Authorizing a Second Amendment to the Memorandum of Understanding with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Natural Resource Restoration Regarding Shoreline Protection, Natural Resource Restoration, Landfill Closure, and Waterfront Park Construction on a Portion of the Former Harrison Avenue Landfill Designated as Block 809, Lots 7, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 on the City of Camden Tax Map

Motion:

Ayes:

Nays:

Abstentions:

Comments:

Ms. Simpson stated that this Resolution arises out of the current MOU with NJDEP/ONRR regarding the environmental remediation of the development of the former Harrison Avenue Landfill into Cramer Hill Waterfront Park. CRA has been advised of DEP's desire to open the park prior to its release of control. Under the existing MOU, DEP will turn the control back to CRA in the fall of 2022. The existing MOU is silent as to DEP's possible opening of the park this fall. This Resolution puts CRA in position to vet and negotiate terms and conditions of opening the park in 2021. Mr. Asselta stated it has always been planned for a non-profit or other entity determined by the City or the County to operate the park. Although CRA anticipated having several more months to plan, the State wants to open the park expeditiously.

There were no further comments or questions.

Public Comments

None.

Old Business

None.

New Business

None.

Executive Session

None.

Chairperson's Remarks and Observations

None.

Adjournment

Ms. Sharma made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Mr. Harden and affirmed by a voice vote by all Commissioners. The meeting ended at approximately 6:19 PM.