

Community Redevelopment Authority (CRA)

Fifty First Meeting

Wednesday, February 21, 2018 – 4:04 P.M.

Proceedings:

The CRA meeting was called to order at 4:04 p.m. with Chairman Crary presiding. Roll was called with Donna Crary, Chairman; Mike McGowan, CRA Member; Fred Frederick, CRA Member; and Tim Abell, CRA Member present. Larry Taub, City Solicitor; Robert Love, Deputy Director of the Department of Economic and Community Development; and Leigha Steele, Economic Development Coordinator were also in attendance.

- Motion to approve CRA meeting minutes of January 17th, Tim Abell motioned, Mike McGowan seconded. Motion carried on a unanimous roll call vote.
- Motion to approve minutes of CRA closed session of January 17th, Mike McGowan motioned, Tim Abell seconded. Motion carried on a unanimous roll call vote.
- Motion to approve the lead testing at the Gude Mansion for \$885.00 on January 23, 2018, Tim Abell motioned, Mike McGowan seconded. Motion carried on a unanimous roll call vote.

New Business:

- Historic Savage Mill Manor: Putting on the Ritz Catering Company
 - The owners of Putting on the Ritz advised that a dishwasher and a regular oven should be all the equipment that is needed in the kitchen, quality caterers will bring their own ovens with them, and the biggest need of most caterers is work space.
 - The owners will come to see the Gude Mansion and give more detailed advice at that time
- Tim Abell said he would like to bring in an architect and all stakeholders, to create an overall plan for renovation of the Gude Mansion before any work is started. This would be to insure that everything is done properly and stays on budget.
 - Chairman Crary said in order to hire an architect, she needs recommendations for some local historic architects.
 - Chairman Crary also brought up the idea of using an interior designer and engineer in the planning process.
 - Chairman Crary could also reach out to the architect who worked on renovating the historic theater in Greenbelt.
 - Larry Taub and Tim Abell said they will also pass along some contacts for architects to Chairman Crary.
- Chairman Crary asked the group about the fireplace in the Gude Mansion, should they be looking into to see if they are working fireplaces, or just be used as a décor
 - Tim Abell said it would be too big of a liability for working fireplaces.
 - Mike McGowan agreed a real fireplace would be too much of a liability, and brought up the option of a gas fireplace if possible
 - Chairman Crary was unsure if there was gas available on the property
- Fred Frederick suggested the idea of doing an open call for architects to do a walkthrough of the property and then give a plan for what they would do with the building for free. The group thought it unlikely that the architects would give any planning information for free

The CRA adjourned into closed session at 4:25 p.m. to discuss the acquisition of real property and to consult with legal counsel.

The CRA reconvened the regular meeting at 4:37 p.m.

Next meeting will be Wednesday, March 21, 2018 at 4:00 p.m. The CRA Meeting was adjourned at 4:37 p.m.