

# **Community Redevelopment Authority (CRA)**

## **Fifty Eighth Meeting**

**Wednesday, October 17, 2018 – 4:03 P.M.**

### **Proceedings:**

The CRA meeting was called to order at 4:03 p.m. with Chairman Crary presiding. Roll was called with Donna Crary, Chairman; Mike McGowan, CRA Member; and Jamal Lee, CRA Member present. Larry Taub, City Solicitor; Robert Love, Deputy Director of the Department of Economic and Community Development; Leigha Steele, Economic Development Coordinator; and guest Brian Keys, were also in attendance.

- Introduction of Guest, Brian Keys
  - Mr. Keys is a prospective member of the CRA, and will be appointed by the Mayor and City Council at their next meeting
  - Mr. Keys has a mortgage loan business in Ward 2 near Laurel Lakes

### **New Business:**

- CRA Membership Update
  - Mike McGowan will contact members when electronic votes are needed
  - If CRA members miss a meeting, please follow up by reading the minutes. Members can contact Chairman Crary, Robert Love, or any other CRA member with any questions or meeting updates after a missed meeting.
  - Chairman Crary also asks that member please check their emails as there will be upcoming information that will need to be shared between CRA in-person meetings.
- Georgetown Capstone Program
  - Professor Dr. Bob, from Georgetown University, has reached out to the City of Laurel and would like to partner with the CRA for their Capstone Program, the thesis project for the Masters in Professional Real Estate at Georgetown University
  - The thesis is 12,000 word, 50 pages full feasibility study that includes market analysis, property valuation, comps, highest and best uses, and a complete 10-year financial analysis.
  - The thesis project work is valued at \$50,000-\$100,000 once completed, and there is no cost to the CRA or the City of Laurel to partner
  - After the completion of the project, the student will also present their thesis to anyone that is interested including committee members, the Mayor, and the City Council.
  - CRA members would like to participate, Leigha Steele will invite Dr. Bob to the next CRA meeting to discuss how to move forward with the partnership and potential properties for the program.
- Gude Mansion Updates
  - Chairman Crary, Robert Love, and Director of Parks and Recreation, Joanne Barr, met with the interior designer, a kitchen designer, and architect on November 16<sup>th</sup>
  - The designers will be sending samples for design choices that are appropriate for the historic period of the house
  - Laminate flooring will need to be put down in the kitchen area because of the high traffic use from the caterers and catering equipment
  - CRA members reviewed architectural drawings for floor plan options
  - The architect said that a ADA accessible water fountain will need to be installed

**Old Business:**

- 41 B Street – Important Dates
  - The feasibility period expires on 10/20/2018
  - The title company has the deposit of \$60,000 from buyers
  - Closing on the property expected 11/19/2018

The CRA adjourned into closed session at 4:27 p.m. to discuss the acquisition of real property and to consult with legal counsel. Chairman Crary motioned, Jamal Lee seconded. Motion carried on a unanimous roll call vote.

CRA Member, Mike McGowan, and Guest, Brian Keys, excused themselves from the closed session portion of the meeting at 4:27 p.m.

The CRA reconvened the regular meeting at 4:44 p.m.

Motion to approve CRA meeting minutes of September 19<sup>th</sup>, Jamal Lee motioned, Mike McGowan seconded. Motion carried on a unanimous roll call vote.

- The Planning Commission will be meeting next week with all the Department heads about the Candlewood Suites hotel that is going in behind the Gude Mansion
  - Chairman Crary was invited to attend the meeting

Next meeting will be Thursday, November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 4:00 p.m.

The CRA Meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.