

MINUTES
COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 24, 2009

Pursuant to Public Notice, Chairman David Schechter convened a regular meeting of the Community Redevelopment Agency Advisory Committee at 6:30 p.m., on September 24, 2009 in the Council Chamber. Those present were Chairman David Schechter, Vice-Chairman David Omler, Janice Oberwetter, Sal D'Amato, and Scott Rhodes. Community Development Director Laura Canady, and Administrative Assistant Tania Miner were also present. Ron Van Meter, Sue Gaines and alternate, Conrad Lawlor were absent.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

DISCUSS/TAKE ACTION ON FACADE GRANT REQUEST FOR TWO RIVERS INVESTMENTS, LLC, 1231 S. PATRICK DRIVE

Community Development Director Laura Canady introduced this facade grant request and discussed the overall renovation of this property. The property will become a medical office, and the entire renovation project cost is \$175,000.00. Ms. Canady noted that most of the mature landscaping currently at this location is incorporated into the plan. The applicant is seeking the maximum matching grant in the amount of \$15,000.00 for the complete exterior renovation based on eligible expenses in the amount of \$49066.00.

Ms. Canady introduced Paul Capraro, the owner and contractor for this project. Mr. Capraro responded to questions from the committee. They discussed the possibility of adding more decorative elements to the plans.

Public Comments

None

Sal D'Amato **MOVED, SECOND** David Omler to recommend that the Community Redevelopment Agency approve a facade grant up to the amount of \$15,000.00 for 1231 S. Patrick Drive; with the suggestion that the applicant incorporate some additional decorative element such as shutters, stonework and/or lighting into the existing plan.

VOTE: All ayes. **MOTION CARRIED.**

DISCUSS/TAKE ACTION ON RECOMMENDATION ON SRA1A UNDERGROUND UTILITIES PROJECT

City Engineer, David King made a presentation to the committee regarding the costs, challenges and scope of work required to relocate overhead electrical and utilities to underground service along the A1A corridor. The effort to underground has long been a goal of the City and its vision for the A1A corridor. Many years of investigation and efforts by the staff and the Municipal Underground Utilities Consortium have now resulted in a binding cost estimate for the City. The highlights of Mr. King's presentation:

- FPL binding cost estimate in the amount of \$ 568,859 was recently received for Phase 1 (1 mile from north City limit to approximately Jackson)
- FPL's costs are higher than if the City contracted the work itself, however there will be additional costs for project management/coordination for such a large project.
- The City is planning a streetscape project that will consist of sidewalks, landscaping, lighting and other enhancements to the west side of A1A. If the City serves as the contractor, the City will realize savings over FPL charges and be able to control and coordinate the project in a more efficient manner than if FPL contractors to do the project.
- Electrical service conversions of businesses along the route are estimated at \$80,000.
- The costs for other service providers such as AT&T, Brighthouse, and L3C is approximately \$470,000.
- There are additional costs that the engineering firm continues to define.
- The total project length of approximately 3 miles qualifies for the tariff and related savings of approximately 25%.
- The deadline for signing an agreement has been extended until October 2010; however, the binding estimate is only good through February 2010.

The board discussed options and favored extending the length of each Phase to 1.5 miles, thus allowing the project to be completed in two phases and be completed more quickly. The board also expressed an interest in having the city take the lead on the project, rather than FPL.

Chairman Schechter spoke in favor of Mr. King's suggestion that the City hire their own contractor for the sake of greater control and cost savings. He also asked what would happen if another utility contractor comes along and wants to add some conduit. Mr.

King responded that there is typically some City owned conduits that could be sold or leased. He also noted that there is a way that the City can provide DOT with notification that this is an overlay district where utilities are required to be underground. This would prevent DOT from issuing a permit without first referring contractors to the City.

Mr. Schechter would like to see the City incorporate a legal requirement that from this point forward, all new utilities will be under-grounded.

Mr. Schechter summarized that the under-grounding will begin at the north end of the City; that the city would hire their own contractor to lay conduit; determine whether or not they can do 1 mile at a time for three phases, or two phases of 1.5 miles each; and to follow up with the streetscape project.

David Omler **MOVED, SECOND** Sal D'Amato, to recommend that City Council move ahead with under-grounding of utility lines along A1A, with a preference of two phases of 1.5 miles to minimize disruptions and speed up the process of moving lines underground. The City should also consider acting as the project manager for cost reduction, efficiency and control. **VOTE:** All ayes. **MOTION CARRIED.**

DISCUSS/TAKE ACTION ON MAST ARM SIGNALIZATION AT SRA1A & SHEARWATER PARKWAY

Ms. Canady introduced this item and stated that the Hunt Group has offered to pay for mast arms at Shearwater and A1A. She said that the mast arms have to meet FDOT standards.

Mr. King added that the City would own the signals, and then contracts with Brevard County to maintain them.

Ms. Canady spoke about setting the tone for this district in selecting mast arms with some decorative elements as opposed to basic galvanized mast arms for each of the five major signalized sections on A1A: Shearwater, Scorpion, Jackson, Cassia and DeSoto. She stated that FDOT has stated that if painted mast arms are selected, then the City will have to do the maintenance. As a result, Ms. Canady has looked some options and presented her findings to the committee. She noted that the galvanized poles do not peel.

Ms. Canady asked if aggregate poles are an option, and Mr. King responded that he has not seen any. He also spoke about FDOT requirements in determining mast arm size and lighting requirements.

David Omler **MOVED, SECOND** Sal D'Amato, to recommend that the City Council select mast arms with the longest lifespan and warranty; and that they are rounded with

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curved arms, coated in a green tone, with an elevated, decorative base. **VOTE:** All ayes. **MOTION CARRIED.**

STAFF REPORT

Ms. Canady reminded the committee members of the upcoming Florida Redevelopment Association conference.

Mr. Omler asked about money that was saved from using a less expensive type of pole at one of the beach accesses, and if that savings could be used to add poles at Pelican Beach Park and Hightower. Ms. Canady replied that two more poles could probably be purchased and the committee discussed this possibility. Mr. Schechter suggested that this could always be revisited after all the beach accesses have been completed.

Mr. Rhodes asked about the new signal at Jackson and S. Patrick Drive.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – AUGUST 27, 2009

Sal D'Amato **MOVED, SECOND** David Omler, to approve the minutes of the August 27, 2009 regular meeting as presented. **VOTE:** All ayes. **MOTION CARRIED.**

NEXT MEETING DATE: OCTOBER 22, 2009

Chairman Schechter adjourned the meeting at 8:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tania Miner
Recording Secretary