



Community Redevelopment Advisory Board Minutes

November 11, 2021 at 5:30 pm

Virtual Meeting

Present

Board Members: Christine Girand, Linda Washington, Carol Rosenfelt, Maria Bryant, Anjali Vaya

Staff Members: Peter Moore, Kyle Dudgeon, Jessica Lovelace

Absent

Sarah Grafton, Matthew Hurst

Meeting called to order

Staff called the meeting to order at 5:31 pm.

A. Introduction of New Staff

CRA Assistant Division Director, Kyle Dudgeon, introduced new CRA staff member, Jessica Lovelace.

Consent Agenda

- A. **Approval of Minutes** - August 26, 2021. Board raised concerns pertaining to generalizing board comments collectively. Board moved to amend minutes, changing language from “Board” to “Concerns were raised” for items regarding varying board views.

Motion to amend August 26, 2022 Minutes by Carol Rosenfelt, seconded by Christine Girand. Motion Passes 5-0.

Motion to approve minutes with amendments made by Carol Rosenfelt, seconded by Maria Bryant. Motion Passes 5-0.

Action Items

A. Shady Park - Presentation of proposed park improvements

CRA Assistant Division Director, Kyle Dudgeon, introduced Parks and Recreation Director, Jason Seeley to discuss the item and the enhancements to Shady Park.

Mr. Seeley commenced the discussion by providing a brief overview of the public’s involvement in shaping the enhancements for Shady Park. Mr. Seeley hosted community meetings in addition to surveying the community. Survey results demonstrated a primary interest in history, culture, and arts. Thus, the main park improvements will include a large memorial space, removal of concrete pads to add more trees and green space for open play area, upgraded gathering and seating space to create a secondary plaza, added elevated landscaping, and improved ADA accessibility.

Mr. Seeley introduced community member and Shady Park Committee member Lee Rambeau Kemp to provide a PowerPoint presentation.

Lee Rambeua Kemp, 1359 Campman Circle, began the presentation providing historical context of Hannibal Square and overall goals. The Shady Park Committee's primary goals include preserving African American heritage and educating city leadership. Ms. Kemp's presentation stressed the importance of restoring existing historical markers and adding sculptures to memorialize prominent historical figures and educate the community. The Shady Park Committee is requesting sculptures of Gus Henderson, Frank R. Israel, Mary Lee Depugh, and Walter B. Simpson. In addition to historical markers, the committee is also requesting a brochure that showcases the community's history to be made available in the community center as well as the city's website.

Mr. Dudgeon requested that board members consider community feedback enhancements as they related to their appropriateness for Shady Park, fiscal responsibility, and community input.

Discussion ensued regarding fiscal responsibility, specifically relating to the amount of money being used for memorial space, which is approximately \$200,000 as it would be to use the majority of funds as opposed to additional play areas.

Prior to approval, the board opened the floor to public comment.

Mary Daniels, 650 Canton Avenue, is in full support of the request and asks for approval.

Barbara Chandler, 730 Minnesota Avenue, likes the added green space component and supports overall enhancements.

Forrest Michael, 358 W Comstock Avenue, asks the board to consider grant funding to support project needs.

Motion made by Maria Bryant and seconded by Anjali Vaya to approve Shady Park improvements. Motion passes 5-0.

Staff Updates

A. Martin Luther King Jr. (MLK) Park Improvements

Mr. Jason Seeley introduced the item. The requested MLK park improvements were included in a Community Redevelopment Agency capital improvement plan from 2013 for three-million-dollars. The focal point of the discussion is the Unity Heritage Corner. Mr. Seeley asked the city to complete its previous commitment to build an MLK monument and memorial wall.

Lee Rambeau Kemp, 1359 Campman Circle, presented a brief PowerPoint presentation providing historical context of the park and the impact the park's improvements will have on the local community.

Discussion ensued as they pertained to the necessity of the parks' improvements, which was proposed as part of the total scope of park improvements.

B. Project Updates

Mr. Kyle Dudgeon, updated the board on a number of CRA related projects listed within the agenda. He briefly discussed the New York Avenue project, which recently broke ground. Staff is moving forward with drawings for the Central Park stage as they prepare for a January bid. The parking sensor project was successful.

Public Comments

Forrest Michael, 358 W Comstock Avenue, suggested a smaller Lee Hugh design that would be more cost effective and attractive.

Mary Daniels, 650 Canton Avenue, clarified that the conceptual drawing for MLK improvements was for historical reference but stressed the importance of establishing the Unity Heritage Corner for MLK park.

Public Comments

None.

Board Comment

Board is interested in having staff look up general grant funding opportunities. Discussion ensued regarding reserved take-out parking spaces on Park Avenue. Mr. Dudgeon stated that the spaces were implemented as a pandemic initiative but can be revisited through discussions and coordination.

Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 7:31 pm.

Christine Girand, Chairperson

Board Liaison, Kyle Dudgeon