

APPROVED
MEETING MINUTES
CENTRAL CITY REDEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD
8TH FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 2014 – 6:00 PM

Cumulative Attendance from October 2013

| <u>Board Members</u> | <u>Attendance</u> | <u>Present</u> | <u>Absent</u> |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Katharine Barry | P | 5 | 2 |
| Domingo Cid | P | 7 | |
| Justin Greenbaum | P | 4 | 1 |
| Shannon C Harmeling | P | 5 | 2 |
| Christine Jones | P | 7 | |
| Randall Klett | P | 7 | |
| Thomas Maleta | P | 4 | 3 |
| Michael J Vonder Meulen | P | 6 | 1 |
| Tim Smith | A | 6 | 1 |
| Ray Thrower | P | 7 | |
| Ronald Weinbaum | A | 5 | 2 |

At this time, there are 11 appointed members to the Board, which means 6 would constitute a quorum.

It was noted that a quorum was present at the meeting.

Staff:

Alfred Battle, Jr., ECR Manager, Department of Sustainable Development
Bob Wojcik, Planner III, Department of Sustainable Development
Sharon Ragoonan, Code Compliance Manager
Sandra A. Doughlin, Clerk III, Department of Sustainable Development

Communication to City Commission

There was none.

I. Call to Order / Roll Call

Chair Klett called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m. Roll was called and it was noted a quorum was present.

II. Approval of Minutes from March 5, 2014 Meeting

Motion made by Member Thrower, seconded by member Jones, to approve. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

III. Code Enforcement Discussion

Sharon Ragoonan, City of Fort Lauderdale Code Compliance Manager, formally introduced herself to the board and then listened to the variety of issues plaguing the area:

- Absentee owners
- Vacant Properties
- Vandalism
- Foreclosures
- Habitual Offenders
- Illegal dumping, tires etc.
- Graffiti
- Bulk trash pick up

Chair Klett told the board that he had accompanied Fort Lauderdale staff driving around the area; pointing out the chronic offenders, unkempt lawns, illegal dumping, etc.

During the discussion members expressed that the penalty for failing to pay imposed fines does not have enough teeth; so the offenders ignore fines or notices to comply.

Education of the process, who to call, the amnesty program, and time frames in which to bring properties into compliance were discussed.

The lawn service contracted by the city cut the lawns; but did not pick up litter.

Noise, loitering, what constitutes a "gang". How do you control the number of persons occupying a residence? How many persons per square foot? Also discussed was limiting the number of persons per square foot. What is the process to demolish a building? What or who decides that a structure is unsafe and should be demolished? The board found out that even though a structure may look unsafe; only the building inspector can deem it unsafe.

Member Maleta touched on the subject of most liens are more than the value of the property.

Member Barry wanted to know what could be done with vacant lots.

Member Thrower talked about problem properties, particularly 4 blocks on NW 8th Street.

Foreclosure of non-homesteaded properties was also brought up by Chair Klett. Member Harmeling talked about the problem with graffiti.

Members also asked who should be called on the weekend.

The board thanked Ms. Ragoonan for attending the meeting.

IV. CRA Board Meeting Recap – Resource Allocation

Prior to Ms. Ragoonan's arrival, the board discussed the Commercial Façade program, TIF revenue, Chair Klett expressed it's not as dismal as expected, the cost of utilizing city staff/resources by the board, getting a loan against future revenue and what would be the best use for the borrowed money. The Board needed to prioritize their wish list.

Extending the boundaries, findings of necessity to prove slum and blight and to create a redevelopment plan would cost approximately \$60,000. The façade improvement program will not generate any TIF. Fiscal year 2014-15 budget will include the impact/cost to provide resources to the board.

A joint workshop with the Board and City Commissioners will be scheduled in a few months.

V. Director's Report

Mr. Battle told the Board that the Broward Cultural Council has a mural project, to celebrate Broward County's 100th birthday called "Broward 100" and applications are available.

The complete street project interlocal agreement between the County and City of Fort Lauderdale goes before the commission on May 6, 2014. The project is expected to be completed in three years.

Member Barry requested that Public Works be invited to discuss infrastructure issues, flooding, sewers and pavements.

Member Thrower reminded the Board of the idea of a joint workshop with the board and members of the city commission that was discussed at a prior meeting. A joint workshop will be scheduled at a later date.

VI. Communication to CRA Board/City Commission

There was none.

VII. Public Comment

Steve Stahl of the Middle River Terrace Neighborhood Association voiced his opposition on the creation of commercial facade program.

VIII. Adjournment

Member Harmeling made a **motion** to adjourn the meeting, **seconded** by member Greenbaum to adjourn the meeting at 7:47 p.m.