

Community Redevelopment Authority (CRA)

Fifty Fifth Meeting

Wednesday, June 20, 2018 – 4:01 P.M.

Proceedings:

The CRA meeting was called to order at 4:01 p.m. with Chairman Crary presiding. Roll was called with Donna Crary, Chairman; Mike McGowan, CRA Member; and Fred Frederick, CRA Member present. Robert Love, Deputy Director of the Department of Economic and Community Development; Larry Taub, City Solicitor; and Leigha Steele, Economic Development Coordinator; John Lehman, Architect from John Lehman and Associates; and Stacia Smtih, Interior Designer with Homewood Interiors; were also in attendance.

New Business:

- Introduction of John Lehman, Architect from John Lehman and Associates, and Stacia Smith, Interior Designer with Homewood Interiors.

John Lehman gave an overview of architected plans for the Gude Mansion:

- The building is overall in good shape, the primary focus starting will be the first floor and maintaining as much of the original structure as possible.
- New bathrooms need to be completed, with a 100 person building capacity, there will need to be 2 men's restrooms, 2 women's restrooms, and one restroom will need to be ADA accessible.
- The floor will need to be reinforced to bring it up to 100 pounds per square foot for assembly use.
- The first floor will mainly be used for event space, so there will need to be a catering kitchen put in.
- The kitchen will need to be gutted, there will be effort made to try to leave some of the original cabinetry in place
- Next to the catering kitchen there is a small space, the plan is to open it up more and create a beverage room, a place for a bartender table during events.
- A coat room and storage area for tables and chairs are also a part of the floor layout plan
- The front porch has no foundation issues but is sagging and will need to be temporarily supported and have some of the wood deck boards replaced.
- The handicap ramp will need to be redirected towards the front, which will allow for a more direct route from the handicap parking spaces
- A secondary ramp will be built behind the catering kitchen to allow a more convenient entryway for the caterers to load and unload.
- The hardwood floors are in great condition, and will only need to be sanded and refinished
- Electrical, mechanical, and plumbing will be looked at as well
- There was about whether or not to open up some of the doorways, Donna Crary stated that the interior designer mentioned that opening up doorways means losing the French doors, which is a historic feature. Feedback from the event planners at Putting on the Ritz Catering Company said that the smaller doorways would not be an issue.
- Fred Frederick brought up the question about waste management on the property; Donna Crary said that there will be an enclosed dumpster on the property, but that caterers usually take care trash disposal.
- There are two bathrooms on the second floor that will also need to be renovated.
- There are plans for a bride room and a groom room on the second floor
- The third floor will be used as office space

Old Business:

- Motion to approve CRA meeting minutes of May 16th, Mike McGowan motioned, Fred Frederick seconded. Motion carried on a unanimous roll call vote.
- Motion to approve minutes of CRA closed session of May 16th, Mike McGowan motioned, Fred Frederick seconded. Motion carried on a unanimous roll call vote.
- Vote from June 6th to hire home designer Stacia Smith of Home Interiors. Chairman Crary, Mike McGowan, Jamal Lee, and Tim Abell all voted yes by electronic vote.

The CRA adjourned into closed session at 4:27 p.m. to discuss the acquisition of real property and to consult with legal counsel. Tim Abell motioned, Mike McGowan seconded. Motion carried on a unanimous role call vote.

The CRA reconvened the regular meeting at 4:42 p.m.

- Wawa, which will located at Laurel Plaza shopping center, is looking to start construction early 2019
- Double T Diner had their grand opening on Route 1
- Outside of the City, at the Starting Line liquor store there is a sign that says a Royal Farms will be coming soon.

Next meeting will be Wednesday, June 20th, 2018 at 4:00 p.m. The CRA Meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.