

Community Redevelopment Authority (CRA)

One Hundredth and sixth Meeting
Wednesday, February 19, 2025 – 4:00 PM

Proceedings:

The CRA meeting being held at Gude Mansion was called to order at 4:03 pm with Chairwoman Crary presiding. Roll was called with Donna Crary, Chairwoman; Mike McGowan, CRA Member and Sean LeVere, CRA Member present. Jamal Lee, CRA Member, joined at 4:15 pm. Nathaniel Foreman, City Solicitor, Sam Braden IV, Economic and Community Development Deputy Director and Sadaf Parveen, Economic Development Coordinator, were also in attendance.

Motion to approve CRA meeting minutes of January 15, 2025. Mike McGowan motioned; Sean LeVere seconded. Motion carried on a unanimous roll call vote 3-0.

Old Business:

a) Mapping Pathway Around Lake to Mansion

- CRA Member, Mike McGowan suggested the idea of advertising on the benches throughout the trails and miles and to possibly have ads of various businesses. Also, to have a method for people who are participating in the trails to check in and check out at the Mansion.
- CRA Chairwoman, Donna Crary provided different designs for benches around the trails including butterfly benches and to have different color benches. CRA Member, Mike McGowan added having different designs for the benches along with the butterflies such as bees and other insects.
- CRA Member, Jamal Lee suggested QR codes on the mile markers or on the benches. Also, Mr. Lee suggested using tracking apps for people completing their miles to track their progress on their phones.
- CRA Chairwoman, Donna Crary suggested finding different incentives for people who complete the trails. CRA Member, Sean LeVere proposed to reward people with a medal when completing miles. CRA Member, Jamal Lee suggested recognizing the people who are completing the miles on the City website.

- CRA Member, Mike McGowan discussed hosting two competitions in the summer for different age groups (kids, adults, seniors) to provide a fun way to increase engagement of the walking paths and awareness of the Mansion. Chairwoman Crary suggested tying the competitions to the Mayors annual event: Walk with the Mayor. CRA Member, Sean LeVere suggested going to different schools to involve the youth and athlete students.

New Business:

a) Master Plan Survey Results

- Deputy Director, Sam Braden IV discussed the first Master Plan Community Survey that was conducted on February 4th, 2025, to February 17th, 2025. Mr. Braden informed the group that there were 82 survey responses, and the idea is to take a Grassroots Approach with the community. Some of the feedback from the survey participants included to have more entertainment and restaurants.

b) Upcoming ECD Events

- Economic Development Coordinator Ms. Parveen shared two upcoming events hosted by The Economic and Community Development Department: Equity in Economic & Community Development Roundtable on February 26th at 6pm at City Hall and a Free Financial Workshop for Small Businesses on March 5th at 10 am at City Hall.

The CRA Meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m. The next meeting will take place on March 19, 2025.