

**APPROVED MINUTES
 VIRTUAL REGULAR MEETING
 CENTRAL CITY REDEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD (CCRAB)
 CITY HALL
 8th FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
 100 NORTH ANDREWS AVENUE
 FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA
 THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2020 – 3:30 PM**

September 2020 – August 2021

BOARD MEMBERS		<u>Regular Meetings</u>		<u>Special Meetings</u>	
		<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Luis Castillo-Olivera, Chair	P	1	0	0	0
Laxmi Lalwani, Vice Chair	A	0	1	0	0
Robert Ayen	P	1	0	0	0
Pieter Coetzee	P	1	0	0	0
Adam Geller	P	1	0	0	0
Charlene Gunn	P	1	0	0	0
Peter Kosinski	P	1	0	0	0
Theodore Spiliotes (arr. late)	P	1	0	0	0
Zachary Talbot (arr. late)	P	1	0	0	0

At this time, there are 9 appointed members to the Board; therefore, 6 constitute a quorum.

Staff:

Clarence Woods, CRA Manager
 Cija Omengebar, CRA Planner/Liaison
 Jamie Opperlee, Prototype, Inc.

I. Call to Order

Chair Castillo-Olivera called the Zoom meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. Roll was called and it was noted that a quorum was present.

Communication to the City Commission:

None

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- **Regular Meeting, July 1, 2020**

Mr. Geller noted the correct spelling of his name from Gellar to Geller.

Motion made by Mr. Coetzee, seconded by Mr. Ayen, the July 1, 2020, regular meeting minutes as corrected. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously (6-0).

III. Project and Program Progress Reports

- **Rezoning Project**

Ms. Omengebar gave an update on the Selection Committee discussions last week on the proposals. Also a second round of presentations will follow in a week. A committee has not yet decided, but will have results by the next meeting. Between the two proposals, one will be chosen to complete the project.

Chair Castillo-Olivera expressed concern over flack he has been receiving that the process has been watered down since the last consultant's report; there seems to be an appearance that areas ripe for redevelopment have been left as status quo, that it doesn't remove blight or much of anything else. The question was if is this a continuation of that process or if there will be a moment of reckoning involved. Ms. Omengebar stated this is a continuation of the project from where it was left off. That will be where the new firm will be coming in, reviewing the drafts leading up to that point. Every presentation with the Central City Advisory Board was always a progression of prior meetings. As to comments about was or wasn't included, everything that was discussed on the documents and the progression of the draft proposal map was brought to the Board to discuss with the Community. There were changes as a result of that input and discussions with the Planning Department as to what works for the area and what is possible. Once someone is on board, the firm will be introduced to the Board and the Community going forward.

Mr. Coetzee proposed that a meeting be held with the new consultant in order to draw up a list of suggestions from this Board's meetings to make sure everyone is on the same page and that the continuation proceeds accordingly. Ms. Omengebar will look over past minutes and the Excel spreadsheet that was created of those suggestions to further discuss at the next meeting.

- **NE 4th Ave Project**

Ms. Omengebar gave a review of the Project which has been in the planning stages until last week. Public Works is managing the project on the Board's behalf but because of additional fees that might affect the overall budget. As it is a grant, it was decided to bring it back to Transportation and Mobility and it is moving forward. Right now, the task order is close to being signed which will allow the designers to start the actual work within the week. One of the requirements is that the designers will be brought to a meeting to be introduced and present their plans for this project. It is a small project on NE 4th Avenue, no road work, just widening sidewalks, and landscaping from Sunrise to 13th, within the boundaries of the CRA. Kimley-Horn and Associates are the designers of choice.

- **Emergency Business Investment Program**

Ms. Omengebar and Mr. Woods gave a brief update and a few upcoming changes for this program. The program was opened July 15 with enrollment period ending on July 30. Outreach to applicants was made, requesting additional information for emergency loans for utilities, mortgage/rent, etcetera. Responses are being evaluated. There has been some concern from Staff and the Vice Mayor regarding flexibility in the program criteria as well as the amount of funding. Mr. Wood, Ms. Omengebar, and City Attorney will draft an item to go before the next City Commission meeting seeking authority to have some flexibility

in the program requirements with the potential of providing more money. At this time there are five potential applicants that can actually be funded (two might be in jeopardy), with the goal is to increase the size of the pool of available funding applicants. However, the Program will not wait for approval from the Commissioners to fund the two or three applicants which currently meet the program requirements.

Mr. Ayen wondered what sort of things are being added to the loan. Mr. Woods said the usage criteria will stay along the lines of utilities, lease/mortgage, etc., but look to adding salaries. The flexibility being sought is whether or not the business has received money before (e.g., PPP).

Mr. Coetzee asked what invoices have to be provided on what the businesses spend the grants. Mr. Woods said documentation will need to be provided at time of application and certified thereafter. Also clarified was if there are only three candidates thus far; Ms. Omengebar that there are five that have qualified and three that can be paid out right now. Right now there is only \$30,000 (\$10,000 per business) available. Some discussion followed on what is available in the current budget.. Whatever money is not spent in this program will go back to the City; however it can be used towards debt services or towards a project (including this one) if there is a need. Ms. Omengebar will notify the Board of changes made by the CRA Board.

IV. Old/New Business

Mr. Kosinski wondered how Covid-19 has impacted what the CRA is doing. Ms. Omengebar replied that in terms of the work product with Central City it is part of the reason for the delay with the solicitation for the Rezoning Project and moving forward with the NE 4th Ave Project. Because of loss of consultants and shifting of priorities within the City and stressed resources among the departments since March and April, the CCRAB has been affected as well as Ms. Omengebar's workload and priorities. Brief discussion ensued, especially as going forward with this Board.

Mr. Coetzee asked if this format of meetings will continue for a while; Ms. Omengebar said this format has become standard for all advisory boards within the City of Fort Lauderdale (there are 40-50 boards) and will continue until further notice.

Chair Castillo-Olivera noted that Mr. Spiliotes and Mr. Talbot arrived late, so have partial attendance.

V. Communications to City Commission – None

VI. Adjournment

The next regular CCRAB meeting will be held October 7, 2020.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was duly made and seconded. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:57 p.m.