

The Board of Commissioners of the City of Camden Redevelopment Agency **held the Monthly Caucus on Wednesday, September 7, 2022** via tele-/videoconference.

Chairperson Ian Leonard called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Interim Board Clerk Carla Rhodes called roll.

Present: Ian Leonard, Maria Sharma, Christopher Collins, Gilbert Harden, Sr., Tasha Gainey-Humphrey, and Jose Javier Ramos
Absent: Derek Davis
Attendees: Olivette Simpson, Mark Asselta, Carla Rhodes, Donna Arthur-Pettigrew, and Sulena Robinson-Rivera, and Robert Quevedo-Rodriguez, CRA; Jack Layne, DCA and Michele Christina, BRS

Ms. Rhodes advised the Board that, pursuant to the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act, notice(s) had been posted in the Courier-Post, the Philadelphia Inquirer, and the Office of the City Clerk.

Review of Minutes

Date of Meeting: August 3 and 10, 2022

Motion: Ayes:

Nays: Abstentions:

Comments: Mr. Leonard verified that everyone had a chance to review the Minutes and asked if there were any questions. There were none.

Interim Executive Director's Report

Date of Meeting: September 7, 2022

Comments: Interim Executive Director Olivette Simpson briefed the Commissioners on the series of companion resolutions that were to be presented for consideration and introduced Brownfield Redevelopment Solutions Principal Michele Christina who provided an update on remediation activity at the Elijah Perry Park Site. This is the final phase of CRA's assistance to the City of Camden and the Housing Authority of the City of Camden (HACC) in relation to their work over the last five years in the Centerville/Mt. Ephraim Area under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) CHOICE Initiative Grant. In response to the funding gap identified in connection with completion of the Park Site, which is located in the Branch Village Neighborhood/Branches of Centerville, CRA seeks to provide funds through its Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) to carryout plans for the park that were developed in consultation with residents, the City of Camden, and Camden Community Partnership. To date, \$1.8 million has been provided by HUD as well as \$400,000.00 through a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG).

This five-acre site is located at Ferry Avenue and Phillips Street. Updated basketball courts, a baseball diamond, water spray area, and other amenities are proposed.

Ms. Christina covered: Background on the RLF accrued with grants from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which have grown from \$819,379.00 in 2013 to \$3.5 million in October 2022, Sites Funded to Date (6) and Potentially Funded Sites (9), a Remediation Overview for Elijah Perry Park, as well as the Funding Approach for the project. In addition to RLF grants, CRA plans to utilize Hazardous Discharge Site Remediation Funds (HDSRF). The estimated remediation cost is approximately \$1,091,26.00. Upon completion of the remediation, park construction can commence. The anticipated deadline for project completion is December 2023. Photos of existing structures were presented along with comps of the future park design.

Prior to the Caucus, a Finance Committee meeting was held and a recommendation to proceed was obtained.

Redevelopment Project Presentations:

None.

Resolutions for Review and Action

09-14-22A **Resolution Authorizing a Shared Services Agreement with the City of Camden for the Management of Funding and Environmental Services in Connection with the Elijah Perry Park Designated as Block 544, Lot 1 on the City of Camden Tax Map in the Centerville Redevelopment Area**

Motion: **Ayes:**

Nays: **Abstentions:**

Comments: Ms. Simpson summarized content covered in this resolution.

09-14-22B **Resolution Authorizing a Subgrant to the City of Camden in an Amount of up to \$139,104 from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund for the Environmental Remediation of the Elijah Perry Park Owned by the City of Camden and Designated as Block 544, Lot 1 of the City of Camden Tax Map**

Motion: **Ayes:**

Nays: **Abstentions:**

Comments: Ms. Simpson summarized content covered in this resolution.

09-14-22C **Resolution Authorizing a Professional Services Agreement with Suburban Consulting Engineers, Inc. to Provide Professional Environmental Consulting Services for Technical Bid Drawings and Specifications for the Remediation of Elijah Perry Park Designated as Block 544, Lot 1 on the City of Camden Tax Map in the Centerville Redevelopment Area for an Amount Not to Exceed \$23,100.00**

Motion: **Ayes:**

Nays: **Abstentions:**

Comments: Ms. Simpson summarized content covered in this resolution and noted that CRA has a list of 25 pre-qualified firms from whom bids were solicited. The highest ranking proposal was submitted by Suburban Consulting Engineers, Inc. Staff is seeking authorization to enter into a Professional Services Agreement with this vendor.

Public Comments

None.

Old Business

Action has not been taken regarding Resolutions 03-09-22 E & F.

New Business

None.

Executive Session

None.

Chairperson's Remarks and Observations

None.

Adjournment

Commissioner Christopher Collins made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Commissioner Maria Sharma, and affirmed by Roll Call vote by all Commissioners except Gilbert Harden, Sr. whose device was muted. This meeting ended at approximately 6:21 PM.