

The Board of Commissioners of the City of Camden Redevelopment Agency **held the Annual Re-Organizational Meeting and Monthly Caucus on Wednesday, January 4, 2023** via tele-/videoconference.

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

Present: Ian Leonard, Maria Sharma, Derek Davis, Christopher Collins, Gilbert Harden, Sr., Tasha Gainey-Humphrey, and Jose Javier Ramos

Absent: N/A

Attendees: Olivette Simpson, Mark Asselta, Carla Rhodes, Donna Arthur-Pettigrew, Sulena Robinson-Rivera, and Robert Quevedo-Rodriguez, CRA, and Jack Layne, DCA

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.

Board Counsel Mark Asselta advised that there were three (3) positions on which the Commissioners must vote to determine Officers who will lead the organization for 2023.

Election of Officers

Mr. Leonard turned the meeting over to Mr. Asselta, who oversaw the Election Process.

CHAIRPERSON

Commissioner Derek Davis nominated Mr. Leonard. This nomination was seconded by Maria Sharma. In a Voice Vote, Mr. Leonard was unanimously re-elected.

VICE-CHAIRPERSON

Commissioner Jose Javier Ramos nominated Commissioner Maria Sharma. This nomination was seconded by Mr. Davis. In a Voice Vote, Ms. Sharma was unanimously re-elected.

TREASURER

Commissioner Christopher Collins nominated Mr. Davis. This nomination was seconded by Ms. Sharma. In a Voice Vote, Mr. Davis was unanimously re-elected.

AUDIT/FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Asselta provided background on this Standing Committees and requested nominations for two (2) positions. Additionally, it was noted that Mr. Davis will automatically serve via his role as Treasurer.

Mr. Leonard nominated Mr. Ramos. This nomination was seconded by Ms. Sharma. In a Voice Vote, Mr. Ramos was unanimously elected.

Appointment of the third (3) Committee Member was deferred for deliberation at the next Regular Monthly Meeting.

Review of Minutes

Date of Meeting: December 7 and 14, 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: January 4, 2023

Comments: Interim Executive Director Olivette Simpson wished the Commissioners a Happy New Year and stated she is looking forward to many accomplishments in 2023.

Redevelopment Project Presentations

None.

Resolutions for Review and Action

The resolutions below were presented for consideration. Mr. Asselta advised that action would be taken on the first two items on the agenda after which the Caucus format would commence.

RE-ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING AGENDA

01-04-23A Resolution Establishing the Board of Commissioners' Meeting Schedule for 2023

Motion: MS, CC **Ayes:** IL, MS, DD, CC, GH, TGH, JJR

Nays: **Abstentions:**

Comments: None.

01-04-23B Resolution Designating the Courier-Post Newspaper as the Official Newspaper for the City of Camden Redevelopment Agency

Motion: MS, GH **Ayes:** IL, MS, DD, CC, GH, TGH, JJR

Nays: **Abstentions:**

Comments: None.

CAUCUS AGENDA

01-11-23A Resolution Amending Resolution 11-12-16C that Authorized the Acceptance of a Grant in the Amount Not to Exceed \$1,800,790.13 from the New Jersey Hazardous Discharge Site Remediation Fund for Environmental Remediation of the North Camden Waterfront Park (Currently Block 4, Lot 64; Block 746, Lots 18, 18.01 & 32; Block 747, p/o Lot 1 of the City of Camden Tax Map) in the North Camden Neighborhood to Update the Tax Map Designation of the Site and to Incorporate Required Grant Terms

Motion: **Ayes:**

Nays: **Abstentions:**

Comments: Ms. Simpson provided the Commissioners with background on this resolution. Although this grant was previously accepted, due to the passage of time, this resolution addresses the need to update the tax map along with terms of the grant.

01-11-23B Resolution Authorizing a Shared Services Agreement with the City of Camden for the Management of Funding for the North Camden Waterfront Park (also known as Sadlers Poynt Park) Designated as Block 4, Lot 64; Block 746, Lots 18, 18.01 & 32; Block 747, p/o Lot 1 on the City of Camden Tax Map in the North Camden Neighborhood

Motion: **Ayes:**

Nays: **Abstentions:**

Comments: Ms. Simpson provided the Commissioners with background on this resolution. A new park facing the Delaware River is envision for this largely undeveloped parcel. This resolution seeks authorization to permit CRA to manage the remediation. The City of Camden will take similar action at

the next meeting of the City Council.

Resolutions for Review and Action (cont'd)

01-11-23C Resolution Authorizing a Sub-grant to the City of Camden in an Amount of up to \$50,000.00 from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund for the Environmental Cleanup of the City-Owned North Camden Waterfront Park (Block 4, Lot 64; Block 746, Lots 18, 18.01 & 32; Block 747, p/o Lot 1 on the City of Camden Tax Map) in the North Camden Neighborhood

Motion: **Ayes:**
Nays: **Abstentions:**
Comments:

Ms. Simpson provided the Commissioners with background on the use of this source of grant funding dating back to 2013. This resolution seeks authorization to apply \$50,000.00 to assist in project management.

01-11-23D Resolution Authorizing the Purchase of 433 Stevens Street, Camden, New Jersey (Block 177, Lot 64 on the City of Camden Tax Map) Located in the Lanning Square Redevelopment Area for Purposes of Redevelopment

Motion: **Ayes:**
Nays: **Abstentions:**
Comments:

Ms. Simpson provided the Commissioners with background pertaining to changes in plans for redevelopment of this area. Notably, Planned Parenthood discontinued its expansion initiative. This resolution seeks to enhance the site's development potential via its expansion through acquisition of the noted properties.

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

Ms. Sharma moved to adjourn the meeting; this motion was seconded by Mr. Ramos and affirmed with a Roll Call vote by all Commissioners. This meeting ended at approximately 6:30 PM.