Minutes of January 15, 2014

Regular Monthly & Annual Re-Organizational Meeting

The Regular Monthly and Annual Re-Organizational Meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the City of Camden Redevelopment Agency was held on Wednesday, January 15, 2014, at Camden City Hall, Suite 1300, 520 Market Street, Camden, New Jersey.

Vice Chair Melinda Sanchez called the meeting to order at 6:07 PM. Board Clerk Carla Rhodes called roll.

Present: MT, VB, KH, BM, MS, and JV

Attendees: City Attorney Marc Riondino; Saundra Ross Johnson, Mark Asselta, Carla Rhodes, Johanna

Conyer, Olivette Simpson, and Sulena Robinson-Rivera, CRA; Emon Farrish and Deborah Garcia of Met-East High School, and Matthew Ross Johnson, London School of Economics

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

Elections

Before opening the floor for nominations, Ms. Sanchez announced this is the final meeting of her five-year term. She stated it has been an honor to serve as well as a growth experience and encouraged the Commissioners to continue what was started; citing strengthened collaborations, being courteous and asking hard questions.

Nomination & Election of Officers	M	Α	N	AB	Comments
Chair	VB	MT		MS	In a Voice Vote, the Election was confirmed by all.
Councilwoman Marilyn Torres	BM	VB			M T
		KH BM			Ms. Torres assumed the role.
		JV			Ms. Sanchez received a round of applause.
					Ms. Torres noted her prior five years' service on the CRA Board and thanked the Commissioners for their confidence. Several Commissioners expressed gratitude for Ms. Sanchez's knowledge, community connections, passion, and being a voice of reason. On behalf of staff, Ms. Johnson thanked Ms. Sanchez for her service and accessibility.
Vice Chair Mr. Vance Bowman	KH JV	MT VB KH BM JV		MS	In a Voice Vote, the Election was confirmed by all.
Treasurer Mr. Bryan Morton	KH JV	MT VB KH BM MS JV			In a Voice Vote, the Election was confirmed by all.

Review of Minutes

Meeting Date	М	Α	N	AB	Comments
December 5, 2013	MS	MT			There were no comments or questions. In a Voice Vote,
December 9, 2013	KH	VB			approval was confirmed by all.
December 11, 2013		KH			
December 18, 2013		BM			
		MS			
		J۷			

Executive Director's Report

Meeting Date	M	Α	N	AB	Comments
January 15, 2014					In addition to the written report previously been supplied, Executive Director Saundra Ross Johnson reported the Jobs Policies Overview presented at CRA's January Caucus was noted during the January City Council meeting. Council President Moran has requested copies for distribution to Council Members as it will be helpful in attaining alignment and strengthening policies citywide. Commissioner Bowman was present at the Council meeting and re-affirmed CRA's commitment. She also reported CRA has complied with DCA Fiscal Monitor Richard Richardella's request for details pertaining to the Civil Service status. Board Counsel Mark Asselta is working on providing Executive Session details requested by the DCA Monitor. Finance Director Johanna Conyer will provide the copies of Professional Service Contracts. Orientation Sessions will be scheduled for the new Commissioners. Dates will be forwarded to all Commissioners who are also welcome to attend. Ms. Johnson also introduced her son Matthew Ross Johnson, a London School of Economics student visiting on his 28 th birthday.

Resolutions for Review and Action

		M	Α	N	AB	Comments
01-15-14A	Resolution Recognizing the 10-Year Service Anniversary of Sulena Robinson-Rivera with the City of Camden Redevelopment Agency	BM VB	MT VB KH BM S JV			Ms. Simpson offered remarks celebrating Ms. Robinson-Rivera's contributions. Notably, in the first three years of service, over 2,000 housing units were developed Additionally, her how-to approach to development and execution of the \$12 million NSP2 grant—transforming 10 neighborhoods—were acknowledged. Ms. Johnson also acknowledged Ms. Robinson-Rivera's contributions, including the devotion of considerable time after normal working hours. Ms. Robinson-Rivera thanked the Commissioners, Executive Director, and CRA Staff. She noted the ten-year period has been transformative, recalling the early part of her CRA career as a member of an award-winning team, adding that the current staff is dynamic and represents the Board well. On a motion made by Mr. Morton, seconded by Mr. Bowman, this Resolution was approved. In a Roll Call Vote, adoption was affirmed by all. There were no further comments or questions.
01-15-14B	Resolution Authorizing the City of Camden Redevelopment Agency to Enter into a Professional Services Agreement with J. McHale & Associates, Inc. for Appraisal Services in the Admiral Wilson North Redevelopment Area for a Cost Not to Exceed \$8,000	BM MS	MT VB KH BM MS JV			On a motion made by Mr. Morton, seconded by Ms. Sanchez, this Resolution was approved. In a Roll Call Vote, adoption was affirmed by all. There were no comments or questions.
01-15-14C	Resolution Adopting Revised Bylaws for the City of Camden Redevelopment Agency	BM JV	MT VB KH BM MS JV			On a motion made by Mr. Morton, seconded by Commissioner Jose Vazquez, this Resolution was approved. In a Roll Call Vote, adoption was affirmed by all. There were no comments or questions.

Public Comments

Finance Director Johanna Conyer thanked Ms. Sanchez for demonstrating a degree of professionalism, which made her a better division head.

Each board member thanked Ms. Commissioner Sanchez for her dedication and contribution to the CRA Board.

Chairperson's Remarks

Ms. Torres thanked the board members for their service and encouraged them to be prepared to work hard. She also noted job placement and training are her priorities.

New Business

Mr. Morton inquired about Courtesy Parking Permits. Ms. Rhodes reported this request is pending approval by the Parking Authority's Board. City Attorney Marc Riondino will also research.

Executive Session

None.

Old Business

None.

Adjournment

On a motion made by Mr. Morton, seconded by Ms. Sanchez, this meeting adjourned at approximately 6:40 PM.

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