**CITY OF LAWRENCE REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MINUTES**

 March 22, 2016 4:00 p.m. Public Assembly Room

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT**: Bruce Kimery, Bob Marien, Brian Hicks, Jerry Clifford and Frank Sullivan Jr.

**STAFF PRESENT**: Mayor Steve Collier, Economic Director Cam Starnes, and Corporation Counsel Jim Gutting. **Also present**: Chris Barnett, Jessica Tower, and one other community member.

**CALL TO ORDER & DETERMINATION OF QUORUM:** All members of the Commission were present, President Clifford called the meeting to order and a quorum was established at 4:07 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Mr. Clifford asked the minutes from February 29, 2016 be approved. Mr. Marien made the motion; Mr. Hicks seconded, and the minutes were accepted unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:** There were none.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Mr. Starnes proposed an update on vacation of Plummer Street and payment of claims submitted by Mill Supplies from last month for legal expenses. He suggested that commitment to a specific site layout and traffic pattern at this time would be premature, and that staff would pursue an agreement from Mill Supplies not to oppose vacation of Plummer Street before claims for legal expenses re resubmitted to the Commission for approval. He said staff would continue to pursue information on future use of the site.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **Façade Grant Program** – Mr. Starnes said this program assisted enterprises along the Pendleton Pike corridor to make improvements to dated buildings and signage.

Mr. Starnes recommends the Commission continue this program. Last year, RDC spent approximately $21,000 on two projects and leveraged private investments with good, visible improvements. Mr. Starnes will continue to develop project details and said this is a good initiative, made possible working in tandem with Lawrence CDC. Staff will present program details for approval by the Commission at a future meeting.

1. **Blight Elimination Program** – Mr. Starnes said this is another good project to continue, working with the CDC to rid Lawrence of single family dwellings which are no longer viable. The federally funded program allows COL to remove structures. COL still has about half of the 2015 funds to utilize this year. Mr. Starnes yielded to Chris Barnett, Executive Director of CDC, who explained this program allows COL to take properties down that need to come down for redevelopment to stabilize neighborhoods, and get the properties into responsible hands. He cited an example of 47th Street between Richardt and Franklin Road where three brand new houses now sit where two blighted homes have been removed. Mr. Starnes recommended the RDC continue this program.
2. **7600 Pendleton Pike**- Mr. Starnes explained the parcel is 3.25 acres of land on which COL can do something impactful in developing the entrance to the community. He said investment tends to follow investment, and the new Menards across the street increases the value and viability of the property. There could be positive return on the investment with employment and tax revenue possibilities. He is discussing the parcel with developers for suggestions how to best utilize the area, and anticipates this property will be the subject of future discussions with the Commission.
3. **London Witte Engagement Letter** – the commissioners asked several questions of Mr. Gutting and expressed their interest in contracts/agreements with a “not to exceed” clause for the amount of an agreement. Mr. Sullivan motioned to accept the London Witte Engagement Letter with the caveat that an addendum be added to it expressing a specific “not to exceed amount” that is satisfactory to the President of the Commission. Mr. Kimery seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE RDC:** There being no other business to come before the Commission, Mr. Kimery motioned for adjournment at 4:37 p.m. Mr. Hicks seconded, and the motion passed 4-0.

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Jerry Clifford, President Julie Kukolla, Recording Secretary

*These minutes are not intended to be verbatim. They are a summary of discussion held, with the exception of motions.*