

**HIGHLAND REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
STUDY SESSION MINUTES
TUESDAY, January 10, 2023**

Members of the Highland Redevelopment Commission (RC Commission) met in person at Town Hall on Tuesday, January 10th, 2023. The Study session was called to order by President Sean Conley.

Present: Commissioners Sean Conley, George Georgeff, Bill Leep and Alex Robertson were present in person at Town Hall.

Also Present: Attorney John Reed, Member Pat Krull (Non- voting Commissioner), Redevelopment Director Maria Becerra, and Assistant Redevelopment Director Susan Hale

Additional Officials Present: Councilman Tom Black

General Substance and Discussion

1. **Cardinal Campus II communication** – Director Maria Becerra introduced an email communication to the commission that depicted communication about Cardinal Campus II. President Sean Conley outlined some of the next steps for Cardinal Campus II. Attorney John Reed brings up money that has been set aside that cannot be accessed until they break ground. John Reed also mentions an extension that Cardinal Campus II had been granted.
2. **Annual Compliance Review Letters Issued due back 2/9** – 8 businesses were mailed letters, and they have until February 9th to respond.
3. **SEH Service Contract** – Discussion included questions about the not-to-exceed amount being raised from \$10,000 to \$15,000. Bill Leep (6.24) expressed that he had no objections to the increase, as the Redevelopment Commission only has to pay for what services are used.
4. **Sustainability Staff Representation** – Maria Becerra explains that her and Susan Hale had a meeting with the Sustainability Neighbors for Highland, Indiana. Susan Hale expressed that Connie Wachala and Cathy Perrin are taking the lead with the group. Susan Hale also mentioned that the Sustainability Group will be meeting at the end of the month, on a day that conflicts with a Redevelopment Commission meeting, so they were encouraged to change the date and/or time for their future meetings. Susan Hale also mentioned a few grants that the Sustainability Neighbors would like assistance applying for, including one that requires contact through Lake County and further research. George Georgeff explained that Highland might be able to apply for the grant of behalf of Lake County, since they likely do not have anyone applying for it.
5. **South Shore Annual Partnership** – Redevelopment has purchased a package with South Shore in the past. None of the commissioners were sure of the history the commission has with South Shore, but they will review everything for the next meeting. Some discussion ensued about potentially having the council or possibly Main Street partner with South Shore instead.
6. **Commissioner Comments** – Discussed losing a couple of police officers to a nearby town. Sean Conley brought up Hammond’s Homebound program and the Lake Count grant program to assist homebuyers with their down payment on a home. He suggested looking into starting a similar program for police, fire, and potentially teachers in Highland. Discussed the benefits to

this, including having more marked cars parked around the town. Pat Krull was then consulted about the number of teachers currently employed. Some discussion ensued about the potential referendum the School Town of Highland is considering passing. Alex Robertson was asked about how the Restaurant Crawl is coming along, in terms of raising the prices.