

**HIGHLAND REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**  
**STUDY SESSION MINUTES**  
**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28<sup>TH</sup>, 2023**

Members of the Highland Redevelopment Commission (RC Commission) met in person at Town Hall on Tuesday, February 28, 2023. The Study session was called to order at 6:32 pm by President Sean Conley.

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

**Additional Officials Present:** Maria Becerra, Redevelopment Director; Susan Hale, Assistant Redevelopment Director; John Reed, Attorney; Pat Krull, Non-Voting Commissioner & School Town Representative

**Also Present:** Dan Botich, SEH

**General Substance and Discussion**

1. HRC Homeownership Program for Police – The Commissioners discussed the Police Homeownership Program, including when to include it in the budget (2023 or 2024), and potentially expanding it to all Town employees eventually. They also examined possible sources for funding. Attorney John Reed also touched on TIF money and whether or not these forgivable loans would be considered income in terms of tax law.

2. Grant Applications

a. Resilience Grant – Director Maria Becerra gave updates to the Commission about the Energy Security Grant application submitted that day. She also relayed information to the Commission from both the meeting with Drive Clean Indiana and with the other department heads. The significance of this grant was also explained to the Commission.

b. Public Art Mural Grant & Placemaking Grant – Director Maria Becerra explained another grant opportunity and the Commission encouraged her to pursue it. It was mentioned by the Commission that Sandy McKnight from Public Works might have information about the grant that was proposed for the side of Growlers.

3. 2022 Budget & Appropriations

a. Community Garden – The Commission asked Attorney John Reed about if the appropriations can be moved over without advertising due to the funds being a small amount. It was discussed that Mark Herak would be contacted about this.

b. Commercial Grantees (NWI Parkinson's, Nephilim Studios) – Director Maria Becerra expressed updates to the Commission about current Commercial Grantees, including that one grantee is requesting to increase their amount. The Commission consulted with Attorney John Reed about if an amendment is allowed. The Commission advised to have them fill out a new application and include all required professional estimates for work to be done. This will be on the agenda for the March 28 Redevelopment Commission meeting.

4. Community Charging Report – The Community Charging Report for the electric car chargers at the new Municipal Lot was presented to the Commission.

5. Application for Redevelopment Commission & Main Street – It was brought to the Commission's attention that there is someone who has submitted an application to the Redevelopment Commission and Highland Main Street. Commissioner Tom Black explained that the Town Council can address this at their next meeting. Assistant Director Susan Hale will place copies of the application in the Town Councilor's mailboxes, as requested.

6. Tax Abatement & Annual Report – Director Maria Becerra gave updates about Tax Abatement and Annual Report.

7. Commissioner Comments – Commissioner Tom Black explained to the group what happened at the Town Council meeting the previous night in terms of the Wayfinding Signs being tabled rather than voted on. Commissioner Tom Black asked why the meetings do not start with a pledge of allegiance anymore, and the group believes that it stopped around Covid-19 and the online meetings. President Sean Conley asked that the pledge is said at every meeting moving forward.

The meeting was adjourned by President Sean Conley at 7:17 pm.