

# HIGHLAND REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

## STUDY SESSION MINUTES

TUESDAY, APRIL 11<sup>TH</sup>, 2023

Members of the Highland Redevelopment Commission (RC Commission) met in person at Town Hall on Tuesday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

The Study session was called to order at 6:30 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; and Pat Krull, Non-Voting Commissioner & School Town Representative were excused.

**Also Present:** None

### General Substance and Discussion

1. Commercial Property Improvement Grant – Discussion ensued among the Commissioners about the Commercial Property Improvement Grant Program Guidelines. Major discussion points include whether interior and exterior or solely exterior work is eligible, if applicants should be required to do exterior in order to receive interior reimbursement, how many times recipients can receive the grant, whether it should be need based, mixed-use building eligibility, and if there should be age requirements on the projects being redone. The Commission also discussed the history of the grant, when interior work became eligible, and which Commission wrote the current guidelines. The application process was also examined and discussed at this time.

2. Wayfinding Signs – Director Maria Becerra updated the Commission on the meeting that took place the previous Friday with Susan Hale, Julie Olcott from VIA Marketing, Commissioner Alex Robertson, Ken Mika, and Mark Knesek. regarding placement for the Wayfinding Signs. She also let the Commission know that at the Highland Griffith Chamber of Commerce meeting, Assistant Director Susan Hale announced the Wayfinding Signs, and handed out flyers to business owners from downtown. The Commission was presented with color and font options for the top of the map and other wayfinding signs, and discussion ensued.

3. IN Indiana Public Art Activation Grant – Director Maria Becerra updated the Commission on the results from the grant. She informed the Commission that Highland was not on the list of grant recipients. After discussion, the Commission is looking to apply again next year.

4. Annual Report – The Commission was notified that the Annual Report was presented to the Town Council at their meeting the previous night. President Sean Conley pointed out various parts of the report to the Commission and discussion ensued.

5. Highland Main Street – The Commission was told about the Indiana Small Business Development Center presentation happening the following night at the Main Street meeting. Commissioner Alex Robertson also gave the Commission an update on the pamphlets he is working

on for Main Street. Lastly, Town Council President Tom Black was notified that the Main Street liaison was not attending Main Street meetings.

6. Highland Neighbors for Sustainability – Assistant Director Susan Hale updated the Commission on current projects that Highland Neighbors for Sustainability is pursuing, including SolSmart designation for the Town of Highland. She also relayed to the Commission the updates that she had given to the Town Council at their meeting the previous night.

7. Commissioner Comments – The Commission discussed the Electric Chargers at the New Municipal Lot including verifying that the current ones are listed online as able to use, and potentially applying for new ones. They also talked briefly about the project on Kennedy and what progress is being made towards that. Lastly, some discussion was held about the old Town dump.

The meeting was adjourned by President Sean Conley at 7:28 pm.