

HIGHLAND REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

PLENARY BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH, 2023

The Highland Redevelopment Commission (“Commission”, “RC”) met in person at Town Hall on Tuesday, September 26th, 2023. The regular scheduled plenary business meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Sean Conley.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Commissioners Sean Conley, Tom Black, and George Georgeff were present in person at Town Hall.

Commissioner Alex Robertson was excused.

Additional Officials Present: Maria Becerra, Redevelopment Director; Susan Hale, Assistant Redevelopment Director; John Reed, Attorney; Pat Krull, Non-Voting Member/School Board Representative

Also Present: Carlos Aburto, Cathy Perrin, Mary Hackett, and Jean Bernius

Minutes of the Previous Meetings: The minutes from 8/22 Plenary Meeting and 9/12 Study Session were approved with 3 in favor and none opposed.

Public Comment: None

Special Orders: None

Communications: Highland Neighbors for Sustainability gave a presentation to the Commission about the work they have done in that lot as far as planting native plants in the municipal parking lot as a trial to see what can handle the conditions of that location. They also discussed with the Commission how much it would cost to do this for the entire lot, and President Conley requested that this topic be on the next Study Session agenda.

The Commission was presented with the Electric Vehicle Charging Report and discussion ensued.

Old Business: The Commission was given proposals from four landscape companies to do landscape clean up and tree removal at 8200 Indianapolis Blvd. Commissioner Georgeff made a motion to accept Suburban Landscaping’s bid as the lowest bid. Commissioner Black seconded and the roll call vote was 3 in favor and none opposed.

The Commission received a verbal update on the TIF Consolidation. Director Becerra informed them that the Plan Commission passed the resolution and the next step is for this to go in front of the Town Council, which she has made the Clerk-Treasurer aware of.

An update was given to the Commission regarding the Wayfinding Signs. Two of the signs needed to be relocated and Director Becerra explained that it was for public safety and that there is an additional cost of \$1,297. She also told them that the sign that was originally going to be placed near the Post Office is now going to be across from the Public Works building further north on Kennedy Avenue.

The Commission was given a written summary of the Town Council's comments regarding the Commercial Grant Guidelines. Discussion ensued.

Director Becerra gave an update to the Commission regarding the two grants she had been asked to look into. She told them that she did not believe we would be eligible for the RampUp grant and explained why. She then went on to notify the Commission about communications with Alex Brown regarding the PeopleForBikes. President Conley asked that Director Becerra get in touch with Alex Brown again to ask about if he would like us to pursue this grant despite them receiving a different grant for a similar project.

The Commission was presented with House Bill 1454 regarding using TIF funding to pay for a police officer, specifically to be used to fund the School Town's half of payment for a second School Resource Officer. The Commission asked Director Becerra to contact the Clerk-Treasurer to work out details regarding adding this to the 2024 Budget.

New Business: The Commission was notified about the upcoming AIM Roundtable Event in Schererville and told that if they would like to attend, to let Assistant Director Hale know so she can RSVP for them.

Action to Pay Accounts Payable Vouchers: The Motion to Pay Accounts Payable Vouchers was approved 3-0.

Business from the Commissioners: None

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 10th, 2023 at 6:30PM

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned by President Sean Conley at 7:28 PM.