

VALPARAISO REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
Regular Meeting Minutes
September 10, 2020

The regular meeting of the Valparaiso Redevelopment Commission was called to order at 4:33 p.m. on Thursday, September 10, 2020. Rob Thorgren presided.

Members present were: Rob Thorgren, Evan Costas, George Douglas, Rick Urschel and Tim Bucher. Also present were City Attorney Patrick Lyp, Redevelopment Director, Brandon Dickinson, Director Emeritus, Stu Summers, Director of Engineering, Mike Jabo, and Maggie Clifton, Director of Community Engagement.

ITEM #1-MINUTES:

Mr. Urschel reported copies of the August 13, 2020 regular meeting minutes were distributed to members for their review prior to the meeting. After reviewing the minutes, all seemed in order. Mr. Thorgren recommended their approval.

Motion: Mr. Urschel motioned to approve the September 10, 2020 meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Douglas seconded. A voice vote was unanimously carried.

ITEM #2 -CLAIMS REGISTER AND FINANCIAL REPORT:

Mr. Dickinson reported that the Commission was sent the September 10, 2020 Claims Register and August 2020 Financial Report prior to the meeting. He noted the RDC received its reimbursement checks. He added the Financial Report looks stronger than expected. Mr. Dickinson recommended approval.

Motion: Mr. Douglas motioned to approve the September Claims Register and the August Financial Report. Mr. Urschel seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimously carried.

ITEM #3-REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF 2020 NEIGHBORHOOD GRANTS

Ms. Clifton shared the funding recommendations for the Neighborhood Grant Program. She stated this is the third year of the program and she has seen an increase in demand and grant applications. She is pleased with the types of projects that neighborhoods have applied for. Of the 18 grants applied for, Ms. Clifton is recommending approval of 16 for a total of \$132,000. Although the RDC budgeted \$100,000 for this years' grant program, Ms. Clifton is requesting \$100,000 from the RDC with the additional \$32,000 to be leveraged from other City departments.

Mr. Thorgren asked Ms. Clifford why the matches are down this year. Ms. Clifford stated it is because location is a factor and many of this year's projects are being done in public spaces.

Mr. Douglas asked Ms. Clifford how the \$15,555 match for Sierra is being funded. Ms. Clifford stated that neighbors in the Sierra subdivision are happy with the amount being provided by the City and have opted to issue a special assessment to resident of the subdivision.

Mr. Thorgren asked Ms. Clifford if neighbors are offering to help by planting trees and getting more involved in projects to help keep costs down. Ms. Clifford stated it depends on the project and the level of difficulty of the project.

September 10, 2020 RDC Meeting Minutes

Mr. Dickinson recommended approval of the 2020 Neighborhood Grants with an amount not to exceed \$132,000.

Motion: Mr. Douglas motioned to approve funding the 2020 Neighborhood Grants with a total not to exceed \$132,000. Mr. Urschel seconded the motion. Mr. Costas abstained from the vote. A voice vote was taken and unanimously carried.

ITEM #4-RENEWAL OF 2020 ART INSTALLATIONS:

Mr. Dickinson stated that after speaking with the artist, the cost to leave the downtown art pieces where they are currently installed will be \$2,500. If the Redevelopment Commission chooses to move those pieces and replace them with new pieces, the cost will be \$28,000. Mr. Dickinson recommended keeping the current art in place to save funds for 2021.

Motion: Mr. Douglas motioned to keep the current downtown art in place. Mr. Urschel seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimously carried.

ITEM #5-AMENDMENT OF 301 JEFFERSON AGREEMENT

Mr. Dickinson stated that at the June Redevelopment Commission meeting, the board voted to purchase the vacant building at 301 Jefferson St. with the developer covering the cost of the demolition. Mr. Dickinson would like to amend that motion to include the Redevelopment Commission will reimburse the developer to demolish the building at a cost not to exceed \$40,000. Mr. Dickinson also asked the developer to maintain the landscaping at that property.

Motion: Mr. Douglas motioned to amend the motion made at the June Redevelopment Commission meeting to include the Redevelopment Commission will reimburse the developer to demolish the building located at 301 Jefferson Street at a cost not to exceed \$40,000 along with the request of the developer to maintain the landscaping at the property. Mr. Urschel seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimously carried.

ITEM #6-PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

ITEM #7-ADJOURNMENT:

Staff said they had no further items for the Commission's consideration. Mr. Urschel motioned to adjourn the meeting with Mr. Douglas seconding. A voice vote was unanimously carried. The September 10, 2020 Redevelopment Commission meeting adjourned at 4:47 p.m.

Trish Sarkisian, Secretary