

Apalachicola CRA Meeting

Agenda

June 5, 2018

1. Update on grant applications
2. Potential Dates for DEO Visit
3. Discussion of Hill Tour with Brenda Ash
4. Discussion of next CRA priorities

City of Apalachicola CRA

Minutes of the May 8, 2018 Meeting

Present: Mayor Van Johnson, Commissioner Jimmy Elliott, Commissioner Brenda Ash, Commissioner Anita Grove, Commissioner Mitchell Bartley, Jim Bachrach, Augusta West.

Jim Bachrach called the meeting to order. There was a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting by Mayor Johnson which was seconded by Commissioner Elliott and passed unanimously.

Augusta gave an update of the grant applications. The Port of Apalachicola Triumph application that she assisted Dr. Bill McCartney with has been submitted to the Triumph Board. Copies were distributed. The USDA Rural Business Development Grant for sidewalks, parking and lighting on Water Street and Avenue G in the Bowery District has been submitted but the Preliminary Engineering Report component is still in progress by Josh Stephens of Dewberry. The USDA Community Facilities Grant to provide matching funds for a police vehicle and other items is almost ready to submit for clearing house comments. The USDA water filter application is complete with the exception of the Preliminary Engineering Report to be done by Jim Waddell of Inovia.

Next Augusta gave a summary of a meeting she attended with DEO staff and Patrick Bell. Julie Dennis, Director of Community Development; Barbara Powell, Regional Planning Administrator and Area of Critical State Concern Coordinator; and Gabe Peters, Legislative Affairs Director were present. Julie Dennis proposed that she would put together a team to come to Apalachicola with the end result being a list of proposed actions. Augusta outlined her proposed strategy to obtain funding from state sources in the upcoming year including a local funding initiative request, line item transfer, grants from state agencies, and legislative funding modeled on the Keys Stewardship Act. She also discussed the upcoming Job Growth Grant Fund grant cycle with Gabe Peters.

Jim Bachrach requested that \$15,000 in CRA funds be utilized for a new City Manager position. The Mayor made a motion to approve the use of \$15,000 in CRA funds in the next fiscal year for the City Manager's salary. Commissioner Elliott seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-3 with Commissioners Bartley and Grove opposed.

Tom Morgan made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Mayor Johnson. The meeting was adjourned.



Signed by Board Chair Jim Bachrach on June 1, 2018

Apalachicola CRA Director's Summary

Augusta R. West

June 1, 2018

Josh Stephens of Dewberry is working to complete the Preliminary Engineering Report for the **USDA Rural Business Development Grant** application for sidewalks, lighting, and parking on Water Street and Avenue G in the Bowery District. This is the final step in completing our application process. Awards are made in July.

The **USDA loan/grant application for the water filter** is still on hold pending receipt of the Preliminary Engineering Report from Jim Waddell. All other required information has been uploaded to the USDA's online application system.

The **USDA Community Facilities grant pre-application** for matching funds for a new police vehicle and vests has been submitted to clearing house comments from various state agencies, the first step in the pre-application process.

I am in communication with **Department of Economic Opportunity** staff regarding potential dates for a visit to Apalachicola. Julie Dennis offered to put together a team of experts who will come and spend a day in Apalachicola to discuss strategies to address our needs.

I participated in a golf cart **tour of the Hill** with Commissioner Ash on May 8. We discussed the district's strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities. We noted many dilapidated buildings, closed businesses, and homes in need of repair. We discussed the issues of affordable housing and job opportunities. We discussed entrepreneurship as a means of providing young people with livelihoods. We noted an underutilized park in need of refurbishing. We also discussed the need for more events on the Hill to provide activities for residents and to welcome the community at large to the area. We looked at one of the new shotgun houses being built and noted the many empty lots where other new homes or businesses could be built.

I am in the process of creating a work plan and timeline for the next 6 months regarding funding opportunities and other CRA activities which I will bring to this board.