

City of Crown Point
Redevelopment Commission
Meeting Minutes – Monday, October 2, 2023
5:30 p.m.

Virtual Meeting Held Via Zoom – <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83190121972>

Members Present:

Carol Drasga	Aaron McDermott
Brad Bosse	Andrew Kyres
Tom Keilman	Brian Smith

Members Absent:

None

Staff Present:

Pete Land, Mayor
Anthony Schlueter, Chief of Staff
Josh Watson, Planner
David H Nicholls, City Attorney
Mary Freda, Media
Adam Graper, PACE

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm by Aaron McDermott. The assemblage recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call was taken.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Kryes made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 5th, 2023, Redevelopment Meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bosse and passed unanimously by voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Facade Grant for 111 Hack Ct- Final Payment - Josh Watson stated that all of the work has been completed. Mr. McDermott stated that the final payment amount is \$11,224.00.

Mr. Keilman made a motion to approve. Motion was seconded by Ms. Drasga. Motion was passed unanimously by voice vote.

Facade Grant for 106 N Main St.- Catherine Luchene 802 Garfield St, Hobart, IN stated that she has been a baker for a long time and has always dreamed of having a brick-and-mortar bakery. She started at the Crown Point Farmers Market, and fell in love with the area and people, and she received great responses to her baked goods. She is planning the grand opening on Thursday. The sign was really only thing that needed to be changed on the outside. Mrs. Luchene went over the interior, hours, and items that will be available.

Ms. Drasga made a motion to approve the Façade Grant for 106 N. Main St for \$4,066.75. Motion was seconded by Mr. Kyres. Motion was passed unanimously by voice vote.

Business Holiday Decorations – Mayor Land stated that one of the topics discussed at the quarterly business meeting, that is held with local businesses, was holiday decorations for the downtown area. The City will be partnering with the Chamber for the Christmas trees. The question was asked if the RDC would be willing to offer up to \$500.00 to reimburse a business for outside decorations in the historic district. Some businesses really go all out, and this might give some the incentive to decorate outside. Ms. Drasga asked if this would be \$500.00 for each business every year. Mayor stated at this time he would like to try it for one year and see how it goes, and if it's successful then information can be brought back to the RDC for future year discussions. Ms. Drasga stated that it would need to be current receipts. Mayor stated that this idea was brought to him from several businesses. Mr. Kyres asked how many businesses would be included in this. Mayor stated just the downtown area. Mr. Bosse stated that, for example, Ricochet Taco already goes all out with decorations, does that mean that they would not be eligible. Mayor stated that if they have already purchased something in past years that would not be eligible, but if they wanted to add to it or if they hire a firm to put them up then they could apply. Ms. Drasga stated that she didn't think it was a good idea to offer to pay for the installation. Mayor asked the board if labor is paid for with Façade Grants. After more discussion the board agreed that decoration installation could be eligible. Ms. Drasga asked how to we make sure they don't use the decoration at their homes next year. Mayor stated that he is very confident that our businesses will abide by the spirit of the project. Mr. Graper stated that even if there is a lot of participation it would still be less than what the RDC would normally pay for one marketing ad. Mr. Kyres agreed with that sentiment.

Mr. Keilman made a motion to approve. Motion was seconded by Ms. Drasga. Motion was passed unanimously by voice vote.

Walk the Dog – Mary Freda-Flores stated that several months ago she presented the board with the Walk the Dog project and requested funding for the signage. The project is largely complete. We are still waiting for the lecterns to arrive. Mrs. Freda-Flores showed the RDC several photos from the project.

Other business to come before the board -
None

APPROVAL OF INVOICES

Mr. Kyres made a motion to approve the invoices on 2023-10-031. Motion was seconded by Ms. Drasga. Motion was passed unanimously by voice vote.

MISCELLANEOUS AND PUBLIC COMMENT

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Bosse made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Ms. Drasga and passed unanimously by voice vote.

Sincerely,
Heather Evans

ACCEPTED & APPROVED
Chairperson

Date: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. S. D.', written over a horizontal line.