MEETING SUMMARY
Neighborhood Revitalization Board

March 6, 2019, 5:00 p.m.

Call to Order/Roll Call

Meeting called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Kelly Kennedy

Roll Call by Alex Piedras:

Present: Tom LaPointe, Seth Johnson, Leslie Berckes, Kari Warren, Molly Hanson, Kelly Kennedy, Frank Owens, Alex Piedras, Marge Ramsey, Jan Goode and Greg Lewis.

Absent: Russell Cross

Staff: Chris Johansen, Director
Anu Minhas, City Planner

Approval of Agenda

Motion to Approve: Marge Ramsey; seconded by Seth Johnson
Motion carried (11-0)

Approval of Minutes:

Motion to Approve: Seth Johnson; seconded by Tom LaPointe
Motion carried (11-0)

Report from the Chair / City Council Actions

Chris Johansen: The Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) funds for $306,000 has been approved by City Council. This funding source receives recommendations through the Polk County Continuum of Care Board.

Greg Lewis: Why does the ESG money go back to the County after the City receives it?

Chris Johansen: They look at housing for homelessness, they wouldn’t be the ones to approve the spending but would make recommendations to City Council.

Greg Lewis: When I hear County, it leads me to believe it could be used outside of Des Moines.

Chris Johansen: These funds can only be used in the City of Des Moines.

Greg Lewis: Then why doesn’t it come to the Housing Services Board?

Chris Johansen: The Polk County Continuum Board is focused around homelessness and makes recommendations for all homelessness money that comes into the City of Des Moines.

Seth Johnson: Instead of multiple agencies fighting for money, they made Polk County Continuum the main source for Homeless funds.
Neighborhood Revitalization Program

Presentation on Tax Sale Certificates

Anu Minhas, City Planner Presented a Slide Show presentation to the Neighborhood Revitalization Board.

Questions:

Greg Lewis: How long does it take to receive a clear title?

Kari Warren: I have worked the auctions before and once the property is clear of all liens; the title is cleared but there is no definitive time line.

Greg Lewis: What if the Right of Redemption was more than 3 years?

Anu Minhas: The property would go back to the County.

Greg Lewis: Who would pay the taxes during that time?

Anu Minhas: Whoever is holding the certificate will continue to pay them.

Tom LaPointe: Will any dollars received from the local options sales tax be used for Tax Sale Certificates?

Chris Johansen: There will be money set aside for the czb project. There hasn’t been a definitive amount but this will be a tool utilized within that project.

Kelly Kennedy: Any formula used to make sure the City doesn’t lose money during this process?

Chris Johansen: There isn’t much cost to the City besides forgiving liens against the property.

Kelly Kennedy: What happens to the money spent to maintain the property?

Chris Johansen: Liens will be placed on the property and would be paid by who acquires the property. If it’s a benefit for the neighborhood and the City likes what they are going to do with property, the City could end up releasing those liens.
Update on czb

Chris Johansen: They were in town last week and held meetings with the four planning areas. There will be funding set aside within the local option sales tax for improvements in these areas. In addition, Blitz on Blight has been back logged and they will be starting demolition on 50 fire damaged homes all throughout the City. They have a target of 100 demolitions per year.

Greg Lewis: Will the 3 Million for demolitions be coming out of the 1% sales tax.

Chris Johansen: Yes, I believe there will be $600,000 coming for the Capitol Improvement budget so 2.4 Million from the 1% sales tax.

Chris Johansen: We do have a few programs coming out of the czb report that this board could play a part in. The Neighborhood Grant Program, Neighborhood Association Board training and another small grant for all neighborhood associations. Once the report is finalized, it will be easier for us to see where the repurposing of this board will go.

Alex Piedras: When will the report be finalized?

Chris Johansen: They are anticipating May or June for a Plan Documents.

Leslie Berckes: We’ve had 2 meetings with czb and we are currently working on vision statements around what we would like our neighborhood to be like. A lot of that involves walkability, getting people out in the community, green space, strong business and access to amenities close by.

CD Administrator Report

Board Attendance

Chris Johansen: Back in 2015 we worked through the procedural rules, which included board attendance. We are required to send an attendance report to City Council every 6 months. The recommendation I have is to call Russ and see what his intentions are, the other options is to send a letter to council requesting he be removed.
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Kelly Kennedy: I think it would be best for Chris to call him and give him the opportunity to make that decision first.

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<th>Board Liaison Updates</th>
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<tr>
<td>Polk Co Housing Continuum: Marge Ramsey: No Meeting</td>
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<td>Rebuilding Together: Kelly Kennedy: No Meeting</td>
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<td>Housing Services Board: Greg Lewis: Processed 3 people through their homeownership program.</td>
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<td>Neighborhood Finance Corporation: Marge Ramsey: Cedar Rapids has processed 11 applications. Received update on the czb report and approved the 2019 organizational goals.</td>
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<td>Kari Warren: Any discussion about doing another LIFT program</td>
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<td>Marge Ramsey: No, they are really focused on their Cedar Rapids Location.</td>
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<td>GDMP: Russ Cross: Absent</td>
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<td>Tom LaPointe: Requested presentation on Massage Parlor ordinance.</td>
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<th>Adjourn the Meeting</th>
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<td>Motion to Adjourn: Tom LaPointe; Seconded by Greg Lewis</td>
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<td>Motion carried (11-0)</td>
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<td>Meeting was adjourned by consensus by Kelly Kennedy at 6:07 p.m.</td>
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