

Urban Redevelopment Agency of the City of Forest Park
Board Meeting
November 18, 2015
Minutes

A regular meeting of the Urban Redevelopment Agency of the City of Forest Park was held on Wednesday, November 18, 2015, at the Forest Park City Hall, 745 Forest Parkway, Forest Park, GA 30297.

Board Members: Frank Brandon; Felicia Davis; Pamela Lake; Allan Mears; Don Wright; and, Lois Wright.

Staff, Legal Counsel and Others: Fred Bryant, Mike Blandenburg, Al Wiggins, Steve Fincher, Angela Redding, and David Welch.

Frank Brandon, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m. There was a quorum present. The following matters were addressed:

Approval of Minutes:

Allan Mears made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 28th meeting, seconded by Lois Wright. The Board voted unanimously to approve the motion.

Chairman's Announcements and Comments:

Frank Brandon welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Executive Director's Update:

None

Old Business:

Mike Blandenburg discussed the URA Capital Infrastructure Budget Summary Sheet previously provided to the Board. He indicated that the audited budget should be available shortly, and that a detailed discussion of receipts, expenditures and account balances would be provided for review and discussion at the December URA meeting.

Felicia Davis asked whether the URA was in compliance with the requirement to have an approved annual budget. Fred Bryant advised that the OEA Operating Budget had been approved by the URA and Mayor and Council and that he believed the URA was in full compliance. Steve Fincher agreed. Pamela Lake asked that the By Laws be reviewed to determine if any amendments are appropriate. Steve Fincher and Fred Bryant agreed to undertake that review.

At the request of the company representative, the Hydrogen Fuel Cell presentation has been rescheduled for the December meeting.

Fred Bryant previously provided the Board a copy of the Minority Contractor Participation sheet. He advised that a number of contracts have been awarded to 100% minority firms and that every effort is being made to inform and encourage companies to meet the URA goal of 25% minority, woman and local business participation.

Steve Fincher advised that the Board's goal is proper, but that the URA cannot mandate minority, woman or local business hires as a condition of awarding a contract or not selecting a company. He advised that there can be circumstances under which minority participation could be mandated if a study demonstrated a pattern of systemic discrimination against minority firms. In his opinion, the URA's policy for 25% participation and the fact that many contracts have been awarded to minority firms fail to demonstrate a pattern of discrimination. He also advised that the URA can use options such as Local Preference and a Small Business Development Program as means to enable more companies to learn about and compete for URA work. Pamela Lake and Felicia Davis recommended that Acsential pursue that and other possible options in the Communications Plan.

New Business:

Pamela Lake made a motion to table the Georgia Power Substation Resolution until the December meeting, seconded by Felicia Davis. The Board voted unanimously to approve the motion.

The Acsential Team provided an update of actions taken on the Communications Plan to date and discussed the Gillem Logistics Center Questions for Stakeholders previously provided to the Board. Next steps include Focus Group discussions which will take place in early December. The draft Communications Plan will be presented at the December 16th URA meeting.

Open Discussion:

Allan Mears advised that he has been elected to serve on City Council and will resign from the URA Board effective January 1, 2016.

At the request of Felicia Davis, Fred Bryant and Steve Fincher briefly outlined the process by which potential land sale or lease prospects are brought to the URA Board for consideration. Steve Fincher discussed the circumstances under which the Board can go into Executive Session. Felicia Davis discussed the need to review the vision, objectives and Master Plan for the Gillem Logistics Center to ensure new ideas are considered. Steve Fincher recommended the Board have a work session to review and refine the Urban Redevelopment Plan. Fred Bryant will schedule that session in early 2016.

Felicia Davis requested that Acsential add LEED Certification training and other appropriate development training options to the Communications Plan

The next regular meeting will be December 16, 2015, at 5:00 p.m.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Don Wright to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Felicia Davis. The meeting was adjourned at 6:08 p.m.

Recorded By:

Fred Bryant, URA
Executive Director

Approved:

December 16, 2015

Fred E. Bryant

Executive Director