

**MINUTES
CITY OF COCOA
DIAMOND SQUARE CRA
REGULAR MEETING
November 15, 2021**

The Regular Meeting of the Diamond Square Community Redevelopment Agency was held on November 15, 2021 at Cocoa City Hall, 65 Stone Street, Cocoa, FL, as publicly noted.

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Moore called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm.

ROLL CALL:

Tracy A. Moore	Chairperson
Delores Martin	Vice Chairperson
Sylvia Thomas	Agency Member
Ed Jones	Agency Member
Jackie Isom	Agency Member
Marilyn Ross Smith	Agency Member
Larry Brown	Agency Member
Joseph Colombo	Agency Attorney
Lori Chabot	Recording Secretary

PRESENT:

Tracy A. Moore	Chairperson
Jackie Isom	Agency Member
Marilyn Ross Smith	Agency Member
Larry Brown	Agency Member
Lori Chabot	Recording Secretary

ABSENT:

Delores Martin	Vice Chairperson
Sylvia Thomas	Agency Member
Ed Jones	Agency Member
Joseph G. Colombo	Agency Attorney

STAFF PRESENT:

Charlene Neuterman, Interim Community Services Director. *Councilman Goins arrived at 6:20 pm.*

Chairperson Moore provided the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

II. **Approval of Agenda and Minutes:**

AGENDA: Regular Meeting of November 15, 2021.

- * ***MOTION by Agency Member SMITH; SECONDED by Agency Member BROWN to approve the agenda as written for the November 15, 2021, Regular Meeting.**

AYES: ALL

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY (4-0)

MINUTES: Regular Meeting of October 18, 2021.

- * ***MOTION by Agency Member BROWN; SECONDED by Agency Member SMITH to approve the minutes for the October 18, 2021, as written.**

AYES: ALL

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY (4-0)

- III. **Delegations**- Terrance Thomas, Cocoa, FL. Mr. Thomas asked the board about Agency Member Brown's position as he was not a Cocoa resident. Mrs. Neuterman replied explaining that Agency Member Brown's position is a County appointed position by County Commissioner Lober. Chairperson Moore added term limits were also added for Board Members.

IV. **Presentations:**

1. Habitat for Humanity – Anna Terry gave an update on the Female Veterans Village stating homes 3 and 4 will be completed and occupied by Spring, 2022. Homes 5 and 6 will begin construction next year. Chairperson Moore mentioned showcasing this project at a future Florida RDA Conference. Mrs. Neuterman agreed.

2. Cocoa Chief of Police – Chief Collier shared with Agency Members his professional history as well as his plans moving forward starting with his Strategic Plan for Cocoa, highlighting some areas:

Calling for the PD to be proactive, especially in identified "Hot Spots"

Establishing strong successor plan

Creating successor opportunities

Acquiring necessary equipment

Walking neighborhoods – improve relationships before something happens

Community Outreach

Diversity within the Department
Abiding by Mission Statement and guidelines

Agency Member Brown stated he read the Plan and was quite impressed. He also asked about the requirements as to where officers could live. Chief replied they were required to live within 50 miles. Agency Brown also asked about a Neighborhood Watch program and if it was hard to get one started. Chief replied they were in the process of starting a program called "A Chief's Watch" which was similar and instead of neighborhoods, areas were divided into districts. Agency Member Isom asked about the walks. Chief provided the walking schedule for he and his officers adding it was part of their goals and objectives for the entire department. Agency Member Isom also asked about their plan for the homeless and what could be done to help. Chief replied he would like to see a coalition or consortium created to discuss and develop a plan. Chairperson Moore agreed suggesting to hold a Summit to discuss the matter and also include the mental illness side of it. Agency Member Brown suggested holding the stores accountable where they are hanging out. Chief replied they are working with the store owners on trespass warnings.

V. **Action Items:**

1. Staff is requesting Agency approval for an application for the agency's Beautification Grant Program in an amount not to exceed \$500 for the property located at 607 Aurora Street, Cocoa Fl and authorize the City Manager to execute a Beautification Program Agreement. TABLED FROM PRIOR MEETINGS.

Item tabled from two prior meetings and request of applicant to attend the meeting to answer agency member questions. Mrs. Neuterman provided background information and said pictures of the property were included in the agenda. The applicant was not able to attend the meeting. Chairperson Moore asked to confirm that the plantings shown in the photos were in the front yard. Mrs. Neuterman replied they were. Chairperson Moore added she wants to see residents get what they need from the grants and is pleased at the response.

* ***MOTION by Agency Member SMITH; SECONDED by Agency Member ISOM to approve** a approve an application for the agency's Beautification Grant Program in an amount not to exceed \$500 for the property located at 607 Aurora Street, Cocoa Fl and authorize the City Manager to execute a Beautification Program Agreement.

AYES: 3

NAYS: 1

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY (3-1)

VI. **Attorney's Report** – None

VII. **Updates and Staff Report** –

Mrs. Neuterman updated Agency Members on the Rose Garden apartments. Negotiations were still on going for the apartments next door and renovations had begun with the existing apartments. An RFP will be going out for the vacant property adjacent to build affordable housing stressing the importance of following FS and CRA Plan. Question asked if the RFP was for the full piece or a portion. Mrs. Neuterman replied it was for the full piece and was necessary to follow purchasing protocols. Chairperson Moore and agency members concurred.

Chairperson Moore and Agency Member Brown discussed the Florida Redevelopment Conference and they had heard a lot about how much developers give back to the community as part of their developer agreement. Mrs. Neuterman shared that was not un-common and mentioned the Paramore area of Orlando. Agency Member Isom also added she would like to have those requirements as she did not like when gentrification occurs.

Agency Member Smith stated she enjoyed the “Collaboratory” that she visited on the tour at the RDA Conference and Agency Member Brown did as well. He asked how to get banks involved and Mrs. Neuterman replied there are banks who have programs to work with the community and redevelopment. She also stated that Agency Members could speak with banks or other business and invite them to a meeting and Agency Member Smith said she may know of two banks.

Agency Member Brown asked for an update on WeVenture. Mrs. Neuterman stated she would get an update for the next meeting.

Councilman Goins stated there will be a Park Direction Meeting scheduled to discuss and provide direction on the Park updates. The date is not yet known but will let agency know when he has one. He also stated he had spoken with Mrs. Gibson regarding her paint and landscape grants and asked Agency Members if her applications could be re-submitted. Agency Members agreed they could. They will be resubmitted for the December meeting. Chairperson Moore added her desire to spend all the money budgeted for the grants to beautify homes.

Agency Brown mentioned the word “blight” and would like to see it removed from the applications. Chairperson Moore suggested looking at the plan and possibly re-wording some things.

Mrs. Neuterman told Agency Members they had a copy of the DS Brochures at their seats and copies would be made and distributed.

Agency Members discussed the next meeting date and would like to see the December 20 meeting changed to December 13 and will need to cancel the January and February meetings as they fall on Holidays. Mrs. Neuterman stated a Calendar of Meetings would be brought to the Members at the next meeting to approve for 2022. She added if December 13 was available, the December meeting would be changed and a notice will be sent to members.

VIII. **Next Meeting Date**

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Diamond Square Community Redevelopment Agency will be in January between the January and February meetings at 6 pm at Cocoa City Hall, 65 Stone Street, Cocoa, Florida, unless a business need arises earlier.

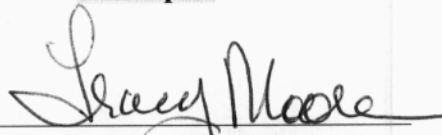
IX. **Adjournment**

* ***MOTION by Agency Member BROWN; SECONDED by Agency Member SMITH to adjourn the meeting.**

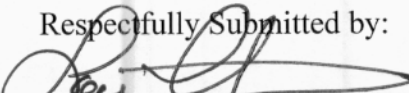
AYES: ALL

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY (4-0)

MEETING WAS ADJOURNED at 7:20 pm.


Tracy Moore, Chairperson

Respectfully Submitted by:


Lori Chabot, Recording Secretary