DRAFT

MINUTES
CITY OF COCOA
DIAMOND SQUARE CRA
REGULAR MEETING
October 17, 2022

The Regular Meeting of the Diamond Square Community Redevelopment Agency was held on October 17, 2022, at City of Cocoa, City Hall, 65 Stone Street, Cocoa, FL, as publicly noted.

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Moore called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

ROLL CALL:

Tracy A. Moore	Chairperson
Larry Brown	Vice Chairperson
Amy Robinson	Agency Member
Ed Jones	Agency Member
Jackie Isom	Agency Member
Marilyn Ross Smith	Agency Member
Crystal McQueen	Agency Member
Joseph Colombo	Agency Attorney
Lori Chabot	Recording Secretary

PRESENT:

Tracy A. Moore	Chairperson
Larry Brown	Vice Chairperson
Amy Robinson	Agency Member
Ed Jones	Agency Member – *arrived 6:10*
Jackie Isom	Agency Member
Marilyn Ross Smith	Agency Member
Crystal McQueen	Agency Member
Joseph Colombo	Agency Attorney – *via phone*
Lori Chabot	Recording Secretary

ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT:

City Manager Stockton Whitten and Councilman Goins were in attendance.

Agency Member SMITH 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 October 17, 2022.

* ***MOTION by Vice Chair BROWN; SECONDED by Agency Member ISOM to approve the agenda for the October 17, 2022, either as written.**

AYES: ALL

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY (6-0)

MINUTES: Regular Meeting of September 19, 2022.

* ***MOTION by Chair MOORE; SECONDED by Vice Chair BROWN to approve the minutes for the September 19, 2022, meeting with one correction to ANR amount from $25,000 to $35,000.**

AYES: ALL

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY (7-0)

III. **Delegations** – None

IV. **Presentations:** None

V. **Action Items:**

1. Staff is requesting Agency approval for an application for the agency's Paint Grant Program in an amount not to exceed $1,000 for the property located at 803 S. Wilson Ave., Cocoa Fl and authorize the City Manager to execute a Paint Program Agreement.

Lori Chabot introduced the item stating the applicant had completed the application and met the requirements.

* ***MOTION by Agency Member SMITH; SECONDED by Agency Member ISOM to approve** an application for the agency's Paint Grant Program in an amount not to exceed $1,000 for the property located at 803 S. Wilson Ave., Cocoa Fl and authorize the City Manager to execute a Paint Program Agreement.

AYES: ALL
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY (6-0)

2. Staff is requesting Agency approval for an application for the agency's Paint Grant Program in an amount not to exceed $1,000 for the property located at

812 Barbara Jenkins St., Cocoa Fl and authorize the City Manager to execute a Paint Program Agreement.

Lori Chabot introduced the item stating the applicant had completed the application and met the requirements.

* ***MOTION by Vice Chairperson BROWN; SECONDED by Agency Member ISOM to approve** an application for the agency's Paint Grant Program in an amount not to exceed $1,000 for the property located at 812 Barbara Jenkins St., Cocoa Fl and authorize the City Manager to execute a Paint Program Agreement.

AYES: ALL
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY (7-0)

3. Staff is requesting Agency approval for an application for the agency's Paint Grant Program in an amount not to exceed $1,000 for the property located at 1205 Counts St., Cocoa Fl and authorize the City Manager to execute a Paint Program Agreement.

   Motion made by Vice Chair BROWN to Deny the request as he advised there was a "UnSafe Bldg." sign posted in the window of the home and was concerned that there were code violations or liens making the applicant disqualified for the grant. Discussion ensued among Agency Members and questions asked of Staff about this. Lori Chabot advised the normal route was taken to check on Code Violations or Liens and was told there not any. However, Ms. Chabot offered to check into this address as it affects this Item V.3 and Item V.5 and let the board know at the next meeting. Discussion among Agency Members continued resulting in Vice Chair **BROWN** amending his motion.

* ***MOTION by Vice Chairperson BROWN; SECONDED by Agency Member SMITH to TABLE THIS ITEM TO THE NEXT MEETING.**

AYES: ALL
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY (7-0)

4. 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 812 Barbara Jenkins St., Cocoa Fl and authorize the City Manager to execute a Beautification Program Agreement.

* ***MOTION by Agency Member MCQUEEN; SECONDED by Agency Member SMITH to approve** an application for the agency's Beautification Grant Program in an amount not to exceed $500 for the property located at 812 Barbara Jenkins St., Cocoa Fl and authorize the City Manager to execute a Beautification Program Agreement.

AYES: ALL
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY (7-0)

5. 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 1205 Counts St., Cocoa Fl and authorize the City Manager to execute a Beautification Program Agreement.

* ***MOTION by Vice Chairperson BROWN; SECONDED by Agency Member SMITH to TABLE THIS ITEM TO THE NEXT MEETING.**

AYES: ALL
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY (7-0)

VI. **Attorney's Report** –None

VII. **Updates and Staff Report** –

Lori Chabot stated she was updating the Paint and Beautification Applications and Guidelines that were primarily formatting, ease of reading and also asked agency members their choice of whether they wanted to restrict the number of grants to one per year or leave it as is and allow for 2 per year, one for each grant. They were in favor of leaving it as is.

Chair **MOORE** mentioned the conference previously attended and spoke highly about the courses and how much she learned. Other agency members agreed and discussion ensued. Chair **MOORE** asked Agency Member **ISOM** to expound on her tour that involved Pickle Ball. Agency Member **ISOM** expressed it would be a great addition to the community. It was similar to tennis and all ages would be able to play adding someone in a wheelchair played as well. Chair **MOORE** agreed about adding it and seeing if it would be possible in the DS area.

Councilman Goins mentioned Pickle Ball is in the area. It could be played at Joe Lee Smith. Chair **MOORE** added she would like to investigate having it there. She continued talking about the program she saw at the Conference in Holly Hill that it could be a money maker. She also mentioned working with Holly Hill and learning more about their program.

Agency Member **SMITH** mentioned Aging Matters and whether this could be a program they could add.

City Manager Whitten added staff was looking at it at Provost Park as well and converting to 1 or 2 courts.

Chair **MOORE** continued to discuss the conference, emphasized follow your plan. The Main objective was to fight against slum and blight. Said all CRA's are in jeopardy across the state. State trying to make sure CRA's do not exist at some point. Recommends we do all we can do, up to sunset.

Vice Chair **BROWN** asked City Manager about amending the plan and how to do it. He replied putting an agenda, workshops and adding what you want to put in the plan. Chair **MOORE** stated she recalls spending a lot of time and money on it. To redo a plan, it is costly. City Manager Whitten stated most of dollars go to re doing the plan. Chair **MOORE** recommended looking at the current plan to see what they want to do. Vice Chair **BROWN** asked the City Manager about the workshop, can the board do that. City Manager added the County is pushing for affordable housing in CRA's and it is already in the plan which was positive. Chair **MOORE** stated she recalls trying to get the plan re done previously, there were many challenges and difficulties. Agency Members continued discussion about the plan and whether to consider updating it.
Vice Chair **SMITH** mentioned a workshop to review the plan and share their visions. City Manager Whitten replied the Board could do that especially with the new members and review the objectives possibly in the January timeframe. Chair **MOORE** suggested it being a public meeting as well. Agency Member **SMITH** mentioned opening the meeting up to the Citizens Academy.

Vice Chair **BROWN** mentioned October 4, National Night Out. He was disappointed the Board did not have anything out there to let people know what is going on in DS Area.

Agency Member **SMITH** mentioned there are more and more Spanish speaking people coming in and are being forgotten about and asked if FYI is in Spanish. City Manager, replied not yet.

Agency Member **SMITH** stated she enjoyed the conference, and it was a lot of information.

Chair **MOORE** Tracy mentioned a class next year for volunteers. She would like to see that. A Workshop for volunteer board members that would help on how to get to community involved and how to make sure you are hearing their thoughts.

The board asked staff to schedule the Harry T. Moore Tour. Also requested to have the workshop early in the first quarter.

Shawna Ginn Housing Authority - gave an update. She stated they were looking at new funding possibilities with regard to the four acres. The state funding is getting tighter than normal. They are still planning a place for the elderly and are working on zoning process. They would like to build 85 apartments and have submitted the self-sufficiency grants.

Chair **MOORE** asked about the sign on Peach Tree at Park, and to check on this about repainting. Staff replied checking on it and letting them know.

VIII. **Next Meeting Date**

The next scheduled meeting of the Diamond Square Community Redevelopment Agency will be on November 21, 2022, 6 pm at Cocoa City Hall, 65 Stone Street, Cocoa, Florida, unless a business need arises earlier.

Agency Members request changing the meeting date as the current date is the week of Thanksgiving. Lori Chabot advised she would check for other dates and get with Agency Members.

IX. **Adjournment**

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

AYES: ALL

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY (7-0)

MEETING WAS ADJOURNED at 7:12 pm.

Tracy Moore, Chairperson

Respectfully Submitted by:

Lori Chabot, Recording Secretary