

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE
Wednesday, August 10, 2022
Carnegie Training Room
08:30 AM

Present:

Commissioner Bill Collins

Commissioner Randy Quick

Commissioner Craig McDaniel

Doug Walker- City- Public Information and Marketing- Public Information Officer

Mary Hardin Thornton- City- Finance- Project Manager

Cindy Reed- City- Finance- Accountant, Grants/Internal Auditor

Meredith Ulmer- City Manager's Office- Assistant City Manager

Bekki Fox- City- Community Development- Director

Logan Drake- City- Community Development- Administrative Program Assistant

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 8:29 AM. Commissioner Bill Collins asked for any corrections to the minutes from the June 2022 meeting. Not hearing any, the minutes were approved by common consent.

WELCOME

Commissioner Collins welcomed Mary Hardin Thornton, Project Manager for the City of Rome's Finance Department, who will now be attending meetings regularly.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/ROME-FLOYD LAND BANK AUTHORITY

Bekki Fox:

- Fox provided copies of three handouts for those in attendance.
- The first handout details updates regarding the CDBG Program. The following was reviewed and discussed:
 - **Rental and Utility Assistance Program:** Since the previous meeting, two applicants have received assistance with a total of \$6,686.30 disbursed in June 2022. The Program is funded through the CARES Act and will be discontinued once funds are spent.
 - **Home Rehabilitation Programs:** The Roof Repair Program and Exterior Paint Program are continuing to go well. In June and July of 2022, five rehabilitation projects were funded for a total of \$38,367.00. Three additional projects should go out to bid in August of 2022.
 - **Banty Jones Park:** Only one bid was submitted for the park redesign as a design build. Due to the bid coming back too high, the plan was altered to make the new bid encompass a design build for the entire park. Construction will be broken out into phases with each being bid out separately. Fox's goal is to complete the project, or have at least two construction phases done, by the end of 2023. Discussion was had on ensuring the health and safety of park attendees regarding the potential issues involving water. Fox believed that the proper precautions would be put in place.
 - **Rebecca Blaylock Child Development Center:** The roof and floor repairs have been completed. The new bathroom with three stalls has been constructed. Plumbing, fixtures, the front porch, and windows are all being worked on currently. The entire project's estimated completion date is two weeks from now.
 - **Maple Street Sidewalks:** There had been a delay due to complications receiving needed materials but the project will soon be completed.
 - **Miscellaneous:** Back in June, Fox and Majestic attended the National Community Development Association Annual Conference in St. Paul, MN. They engaged with other communities to see what they are successfully doing with their CDBG Programs. The 2022 Action Plan has been submitted to HUD. Fox is waiting on their approval but does not anticipate any issues. Community Development hosted the Georgia Initiative for Community Housing (GICH) Team's quarterly meeting on August 3, 2022.
- The second handout Fox presented was the July 2022 Monthly Report for the Rome-Floyd County Land Bank Authority (LBA). The following was reviewed and discussed:

Staff Updates

- In June, Fox and Amanda Carter, LBA Manger, recently attended the Georgia Association of Land Bank Authorities (GALBA) Summit in Macon, GA.
- In partnership with the Center for Community Progress, the LBA is continuing to work on the Strategic Plan. This Plan is a living document and thus subject to change.
- Work is being done on a new LBA website, social media, and printed materials, which will all help the LBA with further outreach.
- Four Committees have been created: Executive, Finance, Home Development, and Partnership/Program Development. All Committees still work underneath the LBA. Meeting separately ensures that each Committee can delve into relevant topics and/or issues without causing regular meetings to have an excessive runtime.

Development

- House plans have been purchased with two options: Two Bedroom/One Bathroom and Three Bedroom/Two Bathroom. These homes will be built upon lots that the LBA has already cleared title. Three homes will be in South Rome, one will be in North Rome, and one will be in East Rome.
- Build sites have been designated on the following: Pennington, Hardy, Orchid Place, and Forsyth.
- The LBA is working with MSP Law Firm to clear title on several properties. Six titles have already been cleared.
- The LBA is working on creating a Façade/Beautification Grant Program. Homeowners, who already live on streets where the LBA has completed development, will be approached to see if they are interested in having minor work done on their homes. Updates will be given later.
- The third handout was created by Molly Majestic, CDBG Coordinator for the City of Rome's Community Development Department, to help educate the community on what the department does. Copies were distributed to those in attendance and will be made available to the public.

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (DDA)

- Aundi Leslie was unable to attend the meeting, but copies of the August 2022 Monthly Report were distributed for review and discussion.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 09:03 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Logan Drake
Recording Secretary