



COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1, 2023
SAM KING ROOM
2:30 P.M.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Jim Bojo (Chair), Bonny Askew, Jamie Doss, Sammy Rich, Toni Rhinehart, Bekki Fox, Molly Majestic, Mary Hardin Thornton, Becky Smyth, Chris Jenkins, Julie Smith, Meredith Ulmer, Doug Walker, Todd Wofford, David Crowder, Charles Love, John Mayes, Terri Mayes

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Chairman Bojo called the meeting to order. This will be the first meeting of the combined Community Redevelopment Committee. The minutes of the July 27, 2022, Redevelopment Committee meeting were approved by common consent. Community Development Director, Bekki Fox, will send the minutes from the last meeting of Community Development to the committee via email for approval.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPORTS:

Director Bekki Fox provided the committee with an overview of Community Development, their team and programs, and discussed the CDBG Program in more detail. Needs and issues at the Floyd Training Center and Banty Jones Park were discussed as well as proposed improvements for both. Fox then presented the CDBG Project Budgets for 2020, 2021, and 2022 to show how the money was allocated for those projects as well as other projects. The proposed budget for 2023 was presented. Fox asked for the committee to consider approval of the following:

- 2023 CDBG Funds for allocation (\$460,368)
 - General Admin/Planning \$90,000
 - Banty Jones Park \$200,000
 - Floyd Training Center \$30,368

After a brief discussion, Commissioner Bonny Askew made a motion to approve the 2023 CDBG funds for allocation as presented. Commissioner Jamie Doss seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

PROJECT MANAGER UPDATES:

Mary Hardin Thornton discussed her role as Project Manager at the City of Rome. Some of the discussion items included lease agreements, SPLOST and ARPA projects. She mentioned that there would be a presentation about the Myra H. at the RCC Caucus on March 13th. Doss asked for updates on the boat launch at the Coosa River. Thornton stated that the remaining funds from the SPLOST would

be utilized to improve the ECO Center and that there were possibilities of enhancing the boat launch located near the ECO Center or finding a less expensive alternative for one near that location.

DISC GOLF:

City Manager Sammy Rich presented an overview of the proposed disc golf course that would be located at the site of the GE Trails. Parker Clavijo, local disc golf enthusiast, has requested that the city allow him and volunteers to use a portion of the GE property to construct, install and maintain an 18-basket course. Transportation and Trails Planner Julie Smith stated that the group is working with Prodigy Disc in Dalton, who will donate the necessary baskets. Additionally, Rich presented another proposed disc golf course that would be constructed on city-owned property near the Bob Moore Bridge near E. 4th Ave. and E 1st St. Several other local disc golf enthusiasts have requested to utilize the property for an 18 basket course which they would construct and maintain. Rich stated that he had no concerns about either of the proposals; the City would develop a simple hold harmless agreement/MOU. There would be no city capital money utilized but the City would have to clear the area of underbrush. Allowing the golf course in this area would also deter homeless camps because of the increased visitor foot traffic on the course. Commissioner Askew made a motion to allow both disc golf courses to be constructed at the discussed locations. Commissioner Doss seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

NORTH BROAD YOUTH CENTER:

Terri Mayes discussed the background of the 2017 SPLOST project that was originally to be located at 1148 N. Broad Street. The building on the property owned by Rene Fountain, founder of the NBYC, was in need of remediation from mold as well as two new air conditioning units. Because of lack of funding, it was decided by their board to move the location of the NBYC to 1604 N. Broad Street, the location of Mayes' church, Greater Refuge Ministries. The church then purchased adjoining properties at 1700 and 1702 N. Broad Street and is willing to donate both parcels to the City so that the NBYC SPLOST project could be constructed there. Mayes stated that the park portion of the project would be accessible to the public, dusk to dawn, with restrictions. Chair Bojo asked if it is possible/legal to move SPLOST project dollars to a different location. Rich stated that it shouldn't be a big legal issue to change since the location is only about a half mile up the street. Charles Love requested to speak and stated that he is not opposed to moving the SPLOST project location, but his concern was that another North Rome park, Eagle Park, needed attention. He hopes that money can be found to upgrade and revamp the park, sooner than later.

Rich said that he is in support of moving the location of the SPLOST project and would move forward with contacting the city attorneys regarding the necessary legal process if the committee was in agreement. Commissioner Doss made the motion that the city move forward with the location change subject to attorney review and advice. Askew seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

NORTH BROAD TAD:

A public hearing for the North Broad TAD was held on February 13, 2023 and the Commission must vote by March 30, 2023 to approve, amend or reject. Rich stated that the proposed redevelopment area was quite large and is considered a "Redevelopment Area" which would then allow multiple TAD projects within the area. This makes it easier not only for financial record keeping, but also allows each project to create its own growth. The discussion today was to confirm that the vote on March 30, 2023 will be for the "Redevelopment Area".

PARKING LOT LEASE:

Property owner Wayne Robinson has requested that the City lease him 10 parking lot spaces from city-owned property adjacent to the parcel where he is developing apartments on Avenue A. A similar lease exists for 32 parking spaces adjacent to these. It was explained that the apartments and lot would be gated off for security once the project was complete. Rich stated that a lease amount would be determined at a future date if the committee moved forward. Commissioner Askew made the motion to move forward with the lease to Robinson and it was seconded by Commissioner Doss. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Bojo adjourned the meeting at 4:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kelley Parker". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Kelley Parker, Assistant to the City Manager