



**MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY BOARD MEETING**  
**CITY OF NEW PORT RICHEY**  
NEW PORT RICHEY CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
5919 MAIN STREET, NEW PORT RICHEY, FLORIDA  
May 21, 2024  
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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**MINUTES**

**ORDER OF BUSINESS**

1 Call to Order - Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Chopper Davis at 7:42 p.m. Those in attendance were Director Kelly Mothershead, Director Matt Murphy, Director Peter Altman, and Director Butler, IV.

Also in attendance were Executive Director Debbie Manns, City Attorney Timothy Driscoll, City Clerk Judy Meyers, Finance Director Crystal Dunn, Fire Chief Chris Fitch, Public Works Director Robert Rivera, Police Chief Bob Kochen, Library Director Andi Figart, Technology Solutions Manager Mike Miller, Assistant City Manager Greg Oravec and Human Resources Director Arnel Wetzel.

2 Approval of April 18, 2024 CRA Meeting Minutes - Page 2

Motion was made to approve the minutes as presented.

Motion made by Kelly Mothershead and seconded by Bertell Butler. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Butler, Davis, Mothershead, Murphy

3 Consent Agenda a.) Purchases/Payments for CRA Board Approval - Page 5

Motion was made to accept the Consent Agenda.

Motion made by Kelly Mothershead and seconded by Matt Murphy. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Butler, Davis, Mothershead, Murphy

4 Proposed Redevelopment Grant Award to Suncoast Young People's Theatre, Inc., (a/k/a Richey Suncoast Theatre) for the Rehabilitation of 6237 Grand Boulevard - Page 7

Executive Director Manns introduced Asst. City Manager Gregory Oravec who then presented the item to the Board. He stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to authorize the Executive Director to enter into a Redevelopment Grant Agreement with Suncoast Young People's Theatre, Inc., (a/k/a Richey Suncoast Theatre) in an amount not to exceed \$100,000 for the for the rehabilitation of 6237 Grand Boulevard. He invited members of the RST Board to come forward to speak about their proposal. Angela Sarabia spoke about the need for investment. Doug Jones presented the Board's

proposal. He stated the Theatre is seeking a \$100,000 dollar-for-dollar matching grant that would be for qualifying capital improvements. He spoke about other current funding donors. Mr. Jones highlighted milestones to date. He highlighted estimated spending. Mr. Oravec stated that the proposal is consistent with the Plan. The grant payments would be made after verification of expenditures and would be available if funding was available.

Upon opening the floor to public comment, the following people came forward to speak in support of this item:

- Jessica Wright
- Frank Starkey
- Seth Kapp
- Judith Koutsos
- Donna Jensen
- Dylan Gamez
- LaVonne Williams
- Kate Connolly
- Erin HERNs

The following people also came forward to speak:

- Judith Allen spoke regarding the HPB.

With no one else coming forward Chairman Davis returned the floor to the Board. Motion was made to approve the item as presented.

Motion made by Pete Altman and seconded by Matt Murphy. The Motion Passed. 5-0. Ayes: Altman, Butler, Davis, Mothershead, Murphy

- 5 Update on Strategic Collaboration by and between Great Explorations Children's Museum, the City of New Port Richey, and City of New Port Richey CRA to Establish a Summer Program - Page 34

Executive Director Manns introduced Asst. City Manager Gregory Oravec who then presented the item to the Board. He stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to provide a status report on a proposed strategic collaboration by and between Great Explorations Children's Museum, the City of New Port Richey, and the City of New Port Richey Community Redevelopment Agency to establish a Great Explorations Children's Museum Summer Program in the City of New Port Richey. He highlighted what a children's museum can do and how they improve the quality of life. Mr. Oravec gave a highlight of the current Great Explorations. He highlighted staff's trip to the museum. He then highlighted the important concepts from the trip. He stated to be successful it will take a network of local support. Mr. Oravec stated the program would be for four months at a cost of \$10k. The City would contribute half and the other half would come from other local entities. Director Altman spoke about a fundraising group. He stated he would move forward with getting the community support. Director Butler stated he is glad this is moving forward. Director Murphy stated it would be amazing to have this. Director Mothershead stated the summer program is a great first step. Chairman Davis stated the growth in our town and the recognition we are getting is phenomenal. He stated this is a great way to get daytime traffic into the downtown.

- 6 Communications

Director Altman stated July 10-13 in Tallahassee is the Main Street/Historic Program. There will be many levels of classes to sit in on. He stated there is so much energy and excitement. He stated we should be able to recruit members from the group tonight for the HPB. Director Butler commended the crews that organized the spring cleanup. He thanked the City Manager and community businesses for the blind spot at Missouri and Grand due to parallel parking. He thanked Mr. Oravec for his constant communication regarding Daily Vibe's BTR. He spoke regarding the sober life home and Director Mothershead stated she has worked with several women in rehabilitation and the importance of it in our community. Director Altman spoke about his grandson and the sober home. Director

Mothershead asked Ms. Johnson some questions regarding the sober home. Ms. Johnson spoke all about the different functions of the home. Director Butler spoke about Schwettman and the Historic Preservation Board. City Manager Manns stated she has been overseeing the development department in addition to her daily tasks as City Manager. She stated if it is a Council priority it would be done in the short term perhaps within 90 days. Director Altman stated there is definitely interest and from his point it is a priority. Director Murphy spoke regarding last week's MPO meeting and priority projects. Director Altman stated it is important we get our concept. Director Murphy spoke about the Tampa Bay Leadership meeting. He also spoke about the wine stroll last week. Chairman Davis spoke about the Law Enforcement Memorial Service and Feeding Pasco County fundraiser. He spoke about getting reimbursed for mileage. Executive Director Manns introduced Technology Solutions Manager Mike Miller.

7 Adjournment

There being no further business to consider, upon proper motion, the meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

(signed) \_\_\_\_\_  
Judy Meyers, CMC, City Clerk

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ (date)

Initialed: \_\_\_\_\_