



APPROVED: May 21, 2008

CITY OF ALBANY
Albany Revitalization Agency
City Hall Council Chambers, 333 Broadalbin Street SW
Wednesday, April 2, 2008

MINUTES

Agency Members present: Mayor Dan Bedore and Councilors Jeff Christman, Floyd Collins, Bessie Johnson, and Sharon Konopa

Agency Members absent: Dick Olsen (departed following the adjournment of the CARA Advisory Board meeting) and Ralph Reid, Jr.

Staff present: Urban Renewal Coordinator Kate Porsche, Administrative Assistant I Tracy Swett

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Sharon Konopa called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

March 19, 2008

MOTION: Dan Bedore moved to approve the March 19 minutes. Bessie Johnson seconded the motion, and it passed 5:0.

SCHEDULED BUSINESS

Business from the Public

None.

BUSINESS FROM THE AGENCY

Jeff Christman said that he calculated the Board spent approximately \$966,000 of its \$1.3 million in available funding. He felt that the Advisory Board continues to struggle with prioritizing projects. Projects are starting to come to CARA that do not fit the original intent of CARA. He said that the Viper Northwest proposal was an easy decision because jobs were being created and the property was remaining on the tax rolls. Conversely, tonight's proposal by HTI would create jobs and put a little bit of personal property on the tax rolls, but the company did not own the building. He feels conflicted between the intent of CARA and the funding requests CARA is receiving. Konopa suggested that the review criteria might need to be reevaluated.

Floyd Collins agreed. He thought there are three policy questions that need to be addressed: 1) when to convert a grant into a loan; 2) how to address requests from nonprofits within the original scope of CARA; and 3) whether to fund projects that plan to or already utilize the tax freeze programs. He suggested staff develop a policy manual that would then guide future funding decisions.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the ARA Agency is scheduled for Wednesday, April 16, 2008, following the CARA Advisory Board meeting in Council Chambers.

ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no further business, Chair Konopa adjourned the meeting at 7:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Reviewed by,

Signature on File

Signature on File

Tracy Swett
Administrative Assistant I

Kate Porsche
Urban Renewal Coordinator