



APPROVED: August 18, 2010

CITY OF ALBANY
Central Albany Revitalization Area Advisory Board
City Hall Council Chambers, 333 Broadalbin Street SW
Wednesday, July 21, 2010

MINUTES

Advisory Board Members present: Rich Catlin, Bill Coburn, Floyd Collins, Loyd Henion, Bessie Johnson, Gordon Kirbey, Sharon Konopa, Ray Kopczynski, Chuck Leland, Dick Olsen, Cordell Post, Ralph Reid, Jr., and Mark Spence

Advisory Board Members absent: Jeff Christman

Staff present: City Manager Wes Hare, Urban Renewal Manager Kate Porsche, and Administrative Assistant Teresa Nix

Others present: Approximately 14 others in the audience

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Cordell Post called the meeting to order at 5:16 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

June 16, 2010

MOTION: Ray Kopczynski moved to approve the minutes as presented. Ralph Reid, Jr. seconded the motion, and it **passed** unanimously.

SCHEDULED BUSINESS

Business from the Public

Oscar Hult, Executive Director of the Albany Downtown Association (ADA), expressed gratitude from the ADA to the CARA Advisory Board for the Broadalbin Promenade block. He said that this is an incredibly beautiful spot which will enhance the vitality of Downtown Albany. He is now looking forward to getting the other two blocks done as well.

Review of Small Grants

Chair Post referred to the staff report. He said that the first question is whether the Board would like to increase the amount available in order to be able to fund all nine small grant requests. Following that, unless a member requests to pull one or more items for discussion, he would suggest that the requests be approved in one motion.

Urban Renewal Manager Kate Porsche added that \$25,000 has been set aside for this round of small grants; the nine requests received total \$32,021. Last fiscal year the small grants program had a surplus which was rolled into the CARA Project Reserve line item of this year's budget; these funds could be used to increase the small grant fund this year if the Board so chooses. Brief discussion followed.

MOTION: Bill Coburn moved that the surplus from last year's small grants program be rolled over to this year. Rich Catlin seconded the motion.

Floyd Collins noted that the CARA Advisory Board is only constrained by the \$50,000 annual small grants program budget line item; he thinks this motion may be more appropriate next spring if total allocations for the fiscal year exceed \$50,000.

Coburn **withdrew** the motion.

Catlin asked to pull item 4 for discussion. Spence asked to pull item 8 for discussion.

4. Hedie Manske – 1100 Pacific Boulevard SE (\$2,115)

Porsche briefly reviewed the request from Hedie Manske for a matching grant to help with costs to enhance the exterior of the building that houses CNS Firearms. Enhancements would include landscaping, a lighted flag pole, and bike racks.

Catlin said that his concern is that the property is outside the historic downtown, that this is not a historic building, and that the project does not contribute to what he feels is the core of CARA's strategy. Chair Post noted that the building is within CARA boundaries and that CARA has funded several projects outside of the downtown core.

Mark Spence said that this project would not lead to any appreciation in property value or amenities in the area. He does not see how lighted flagpoles and bike racks would be part of CARA's charter or purview. He noted that the matrix provided by staff indicates that the project does not meet most of the items for consideration.

In response to an inquiry from Bessie Johnson, Manske stated that the business has six employees. Johnson said that she thinks the bike racks are good because the City is trying to do what it can to encourage biking and that she is always in favor of lighting a flagpole. She is also in favor of doing whatever possible to assist small business owners. She will vote in support of the request.

In response to inquiries from Chuck Leland, Manske reviewed the exact location of the business. In response to further inquiries, she said that she and her husband acquired the business in March of last year, that they have been in a similar business for the past ten years, and that they do handle firearms.

Spence read from the application which states that "You really can't put a price on patriotism. Installation of a lighted flag pole and flags is a small way for us to share ours with our community." Spence said that patriotism is not something that should be subsidized. He finds this to be an odd request, and he is surprised that CARA would entertain it. He added that he cannot imagine riding his bicycle to purchase a weapon.

Johnson said that she wants to ensure that the Board is not judging this request on what the business is rather than on the help they are asking for to enhance the building.

Henion agreed that he would not want to judge the request on the basis of the business that is there. He said that he also agrees with Spence; he would have difficulty approving a grant for a flag pole although he would encourage businesses that want a flag pole to have one.

Collins noted that, if this was a larger grant request, the cost of the flag pole would not be called out. Coburn noted that the City paid for the flag pole in front of City Hall. Post noted that CARA paid for bike racks in the downtown area.

MOTION: Collins moved approval of the request. Johnson seconded the motion, and it **failed** by a vote of 5 to 8:

Yes: Coburn, Collins, Johnson, Olsen, Post

No: Catlin, Henion, Kirbey, Konopa, Kopczynski, Leland, Reid, Spence

8. St. Mary's Parish Train House – 706 Ellsworth Street SW (\$5,000)

Sharon Konopa said that she will abstain from voting on this request because she is on staff at St. Mary's.

Spence said that he lives near this site and he knows that an ADA elevator ramp has always been a part of the project. He is unclear as to why this request is coming to CARA; in this case, the funding would not allow something to happen that would not have happened otherwise.

Johnson noted that CARA helped to fund the elevator on the Manley project even though that elevator was planned. She does not see something that was already planned as being a roadblock to receiving CARA's help.

Coburn said that he has an issue with separation of church and state; he has a concern about giving tax dollars to churches. Posts said that there is no legal prohibition to granting this request. Johnson noted that CARA previously gave money to the Whitespires Church.

MOTION: Johnson moved for approval of the request. Kopczynski seconded the motion, and it **passed** by a vote of 7 to 5, with Konopa abstaining.

Yes: Catlin, Collins, Henion, Johnson, Kirbey, Olsen, Post

No: Coburn, Kopczynski, Leland, Reid, Spence

- 1. Albany Regional Museum – 136 Lyon Street (\$5,000)*
- 2. Forrest Johnson – 225 Calapooia Street SW (\$5,000)*
- 3. Shannon Kearns – 436 First Avenue SW (\$2,250)*
- 5. Mike McLain – 122-130 Ferry Street SW (\$1,000)*
- 6. John & Deborah Orr – 225 Broadalbin Street SW (\$1,800)*
- 7. P'Shaws Cards and Gifts – 233-243 Third Avenue SW (\$4,856)*
- 9. Montie & Wendy Torgeson – 222 Washington Street SW (\$5,000)*

MOTION: Reid moved for approval of the above requests. The motion was seconded, and it **passed** unanimously.

Staff Updates and Issues

Porsche distributed information sheets to be added to the members' CARA binders.

Porsche advised that a tour of historic homes will be held July 31 from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Herb Yamamoto has invited CARA Advisory Board members to serve as hosts at his location. Gordon Kirbey has volunteered; other interested members may contact Porsche.

BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD

Dick Olsen encouraged members to visit the Albany Regional Museum site to see the cast iron pillars that were recently exposed on the Second Avenue side of that building.

In response to inquiries from Kopczynski, Porsche provided a brief update on the Labor Temple and RCM Homes projects.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting of the CARA Advisory Board is scheduled for Wednesday, August 18, 2010, at 5:15 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no further business, Chair Post adjourned the meeting at 5:45 p.m.

Submitted by,



Teresa Nix
Administrative Assistant

Reviewed by,



Kate Porsche
Urban Renewal Manager