



APPROVED: April 20, 2011

CITY OF ALBANY
Central Albany Revitalization Area Advisory Board
City Hall Council Chambers, 333 Broadalbin Street SW
Wednesday, March 16, 2011

MINUTES

Advisory Board Members present: Jeff Christman, Bill Coburn, Floyd Collins, Loyd Henion, Gordon Kirbey, Sharon Konopa, Ray Kopczynski, Dick Olsen, Cordell Post, Ralph Reid, Jr., Mark Spence

Advisory Board Members absent: Rich Catlin (excused), Bessie Johnson (excused), Chuck Leland (excused)

Staff present: Urban Renewal Manager Kate Porsche, Administrative Assistant Teresa Nix

Others present: Approximately nine audience members

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Cordell Post called the meeting to order at 5:17 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

February 16, 2011

MOTION: Ray Kopczynski moved to approve the February 16 minutes as presented. Ralph Reid, Jr., seconded the motion, and it **passed** unanimously.

SCHEDULED BUSINESS

Business from the Public

None.

Presentation of New Small Grant Requests

Urban Renewal Manager Kate Porsche said that the seven small grant requests received total \$24,608; there is \$25,000 budgeted for this round of allocations. She reviewed each of the requests as detailed in the written staff report.

1st Hand Seconds – Unique Boutique (Deborah Boulanger) (\$2,808)

In response to an inquiry received via e-mail from Board member Rich Catlin, Porsche clarified that the owners of the building would be paying for the lighting and installation.

Browsers' Bookstore (Scott Givens) (\$5,000)

Porsche advised that she received a note from Library Director Ed Gallagher commenting that he considers Givens to be a valuable partner and a strong supporter of the Albany Library. Post said that he will abstain from voting on this request due to his professional relationship with Givens.

Albany Civic Theater (Dean Keeling) (\$5,000)

There were no questions or additional information on this item.

129 First Avenue W (Gary Nieland) (\$500)

Porsche said that Catlin had asked about the owner's willingness to add awnings to the front of the building; the owner has said that project would be cost prohibitive at this time.

St. Mary's Parish (Reverend Andrew Thomas) (\$1,300)

Sharon Konopa said that she will abstain from voting on this request due to her association with St. Mary's.

C.H.A.N.C.E. (Michelle Shannon) (\$5,000)

Porsche said that Catlin had asked what prep work is included in the bid; the applicant has indicated that the old lead paint is failing substantially, that it will be removed in an environmentally sensitive way, and that all prep work is included in the bid.

Loafers (Montie and Wendy Torgenson) (\$5,000)

Porsche said that she received a question as to whether this request is for work that has already been done. The owners have indicated that there is a long list of work yet to be done including exterior lighting, painting, signage, and landscaping, as well as an interior wall and flooring; this is the work for which they are requesting assistance.

Loyd Henion asked if CARA has a policy requiring grant recipients to go out for bid. Porsche said there is no formal policy; she generally asks applicants to get two bids but that is sometimes not done due to scheduling constraints.

Deliberations and Funding Decisions

MOTION: Kopczynski moved to approve the above seven small grant requests. Henion seconded the motion, and it **passed** by a vote of 8 to 1 with Coburn voting no and with Konopa and Post abstaining.

Porsche reviewed a request from Seth Fortier, owner of Fortier Chiropractor Clinic, who has purchased a new location on Fifth and Broadalbin. Fortier missed the application deadline due to a health situation in the family. He has had a consultation with CARA Architect Rob Dortignacq, and he has submitted a bid from Smith Glass for \$14,500 to replace the old, weeping windows and doors with attractive new windows and doors. He is requesting a small grant in the amount of \$5,000 toward this work. Brief discussion followed.

MOTION: Kirbey moved to approve the request from Fortier. Coburn seconded the motion, and it **passed** unanimously.

Staff Updates and Issues

Porsche reported that the City was not successful in its application for a Transportation Growth Management Grant for work on the Broadalbin Promenade. The estimate for that project is \$1.5 million, but no firm bids have been solicited. Brief discussion followed.

Porsche reported that the City legally pursued the former owner of the old Sears building who did not perform as required in the CARA contract. The City was awarded \$75,500 and legal costs. The next step will be to attempt to get the money owed.

BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD

None.

NEXT MEETING DATE

A work session with the ARA Budget Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, April 20, 2011, at 5:15 p.m. The next regular meeting of is scheduled following this work session.

ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no further business, Chair Post adjourned the meeting at 5:47 p.m.

Submitted by,



Teresa Nix
Administrative Assistant

Reviewed by,



Kate Porsche
Urban Renewal Manager