

Community Redevelopment Authority (CRA)

Seventieth Meeting

Wednesday, February 19, 2020 – 4:02 P.M.

Proceedings:

The CRA meeting was called to order at 4:02 p.m. with Chairman Crary presiding. Roll was called with Donna Crary, Chairman; Mike McGowan, CRA Member; and Brian Keys, CRA Member present. Nathaniel A. Forman, O'Malley, Miles, Nylen, and Gilmore, P.A.; Christian Pulley, Director of the Department of Economic and Community Development; Robert Love, Deputy Director of the Department of Economic and Community Development, and Leigha Steele, Economic Development Coordinator were also in attendance. Jamal Lee arrived at 4:09 p.m.

Motion to approve CRA meeting minutes of January 15, 2020, Mike McGowan motioned, Brian Keys seconded. Motion carried on a unanimous roll call vote.

New Business:

- The building that the Laurel Board of Trade (LBOT) rents is for sale
 - Asking price is between \$800,000 to \$900,000
 - The LBOT is looking at new locations to rent to hold their meetings at
 - Gude could potentially be a new leasable space for the LBOT
 - Brian Keys will follow up with the LBOT about needs for leasing

Old Business:

- Gude Updates
 - There has been interest in renting Gude for events already
 - The City is interested in leasing office space on the 3rd level
 - Donna Crary is looking to purchase rugs and runners
 - The blinds have been installed, the painter is finished, and the flooring is being finished up
 - The bathrooms and lights are now fully functioning
 - Cleaners will come in this week
 - The furniture and other décor items like mirrors needs to be brought in
 - The City's Parks and Rec Department will budget for an employee to work as a property/rental manager
 - The porch floor can not be finished until the temperature reaches 50 degree consistently
 - Radiators have been connected
 - A soft opening will be held for City employee and the CRA members
 - The plan for a hard opening for the public is in April, potentially Arbor Day (April 24th) to plant a seminal tree on site for the 150th Anniversary
 - Discussion about having a staff member always on site for security, showings, and maintenance
 - Discussion about the official name of the Mansion once it is complete, and naming of the rooms
 - Renovation cost about \$235,000, with about \$51,000 under budget for the contractor

Next meeting will be Wednesday, March 18, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.

The CRA Meeting was adjourned at 4:34 p.m.