



AB

A meeting of the Community Redevelopment Agency Advisory Board was held on Wednesday, January 25, 2023 at City Hall, 400 South Orange Avenue, Second Floor, Veterans Conference Room, Orlando, Florida. Chair Jamie Barati called the meeting to order at 3:16 p.m. noting a quorum was present.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jamie Barati, Chair
 Monica McCown, Vice Chair
 Kimberly Stewart
 Rachel Moalli
 Doug Taylor
 Commissioner Emily Bonilla

MEMBER ABSENT: Eugene Jones

STAFF PRESENT: Thomas C. Chatmon Jr., Executive Director
 David Barilla, Assistant Director
 Mercedes Blanca, Assistant Director
 Christel Brooks, Fiscal Coordinator
 Stacey Adams, Assistant City Attorney
 Felix Roman, Board Secretary
 Liz Nigro, Senior Administrative Assistant
 Kelly Allen, Marketing and Communications Manager
 Chelsey Parrish, Special Event Coordinator
 Kate Harris, Interactive Media Coordinator
 Michael Whiteman, Economic Development Coordinator III
 Carlos Zamora, Economic Development Coordinator
 Mary-Stewart Droege, Project Manager
 Rose Garlick, Discover Downtown Manager
 Gerhard van der Snel, Downtown Facilities Supervisor
 Tiffany Stephens, Division Fiscal Manager
 Lillian Scott-Payne, Deputy Director

Approval of Minutes

- a. A motion was made by Monica McCown and seconded by Kimberly Stewart to approve the December 14, 2022 CRA Advisory Board meeting minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment: None

New Business:

a. Downtown Lighting Improvements – Mercedes Blanca, Assistant Director

The DTOutlook identifies the need to improve lighting within the Downtown Community Redevelopment Agency to create a safer, more pedestrian-friendly environment. Lighting upgrades have been occurring regularly over the years, but CRA staff would like to increase the speed of completion of some contemplated improvements with OUC, including, but not limited to, upgrades to lighting around Lake Lucerne and the southern gateway into downtown along Orange Avenue and Rosalind Avenue, in addition to upgrades on Magnolia Avenue. Improvements would include removing existing light fixtures and installing brighter and more efficient LED fixtures, installation of new light poles, replacing globes as needed, and the addition of underground electrical infrastructure.

Staff requested that the CRA Advisory Board recommend to the CRA approval of the stated lighting improvements within the Downtown Community Redevelopment Area and the expenditure of up to \$407,856.68 for the purpose of completing such lighting upgrades.

A motion was made by Doug Taylor and seconded by Monica McCown to approve the stated lighting improvements within the Downtown Community Redevelopment Area and the expenditure of up to \$407,856.68 for the purpose of completing such lighting upgrades. The motion carried unanimously.

b. DTO Façade Program Guideline Updates – Michael Whiteman, Economic Development Coordinator

The Downtown Commercial and Residential Building Improvement Program was created in 2008 by the Community Redevelopment Agency to encourage the reuse of vacant or underutilized properties, improve appearance, and support the long-term viability of downtown Orlando. The program guidelines were last updated in June 2019; however, given the increase in costs associated with construction, there is a desire to amend the program to adjust funding amounts. In addition, other proposed changes include a new program name, DTO Façade Program (DFP); modification of the eligible improvements, ineligible items and ineligible businesses lists found in the guidelines; and the addition of “focus areas”. These “focus areas” were identified as key commercial corridors in which additional investment would encourage business-to-consumer concepts to enter the area, resulting in increased pedestrian activity. The purpose of the proposed changes is to continue to assist downtown property owners with repair and appropriate replacement and rehabilitation of key façade features as is recommended in the DTOutlook. To date, the Program has awarded funding to more than 53 properties/businesses for a total amount of \$1,968,211.89.

Below are the proposed funding levels, based on planning area and building type, along with the inclusion of “focus areas”.

1. Commercial Buildings located within the North Quarter, Lake Lucerne, Central Business District, and Eola Planning Areas of the CRA shall be eligible for funding for façade improvements of up to \$100,000 or 50% of the total façade improvements, whichever is less.

2. Commercial Buildings located within the Parramore Heritage Planning Areas of the CRA shall be eligible for funding for façade improvements of up to \$120,000 or 50% of the total façade improvements, whichever is less, or a combination of façade and stabilization improvements up to \$140,000 or 50% of the total cost of improvements, whichever is less.
3. Historic Residential Buildings (homes originally built before 1972) that are considered contributing structures to a historic district or are considered a historic landmark and located within the CRA's Planning Areas above shall be eligible for funding for façade improvements up to \$20,000 or 50% of the total cost of façade improvements, whichever is less.
4. Residential Buildings located in the Parramore Heritage Planning Areas of the CRA shall be eligible for façade improvements up to \$20,000, or 50%, of the total cost of façade improvements, whichever is less.
5. Commercial Buildings located within the "Focus Areas" shall be eligible for funding for façade improvements, roof repairs and/or roof replacements of up to \$200,000 or 80% of the total façade improvements, whichever is less.
6. Historical Commercial Buildings that are considered contributing structures to a historic district or are considered a historic landmark and located within Focus Areas shall be eligible for funding for façade improvements up to \$300,000 or 80% of the total cost of façade improvements, whichever is less.

Additional Changes:

1. Exterior improvements for ADA compliance are now eligible under the program.
2. Roof repair and/or replacement are now only eligible for commercial properties within the Focus Areas.
3. Ineligible businesses were added to the program.

Applications will be governed by the DTO Façade Program guidelines starting on March 1st, 2023.

Staff requested that the CRA Advisory Board recommend approval of the revised DTO Façade Program (DFP) to the CRA, subject to the review and approval of the City Attorney's Office.

A motion was made by Doug Taylor and seconded by Kimberly Stewart to approve the revised DTO Façade Program (DFP) to the CRA, subject to the review and approval of the City Attorney's Office. The motion carried unanimously.

Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting of the Community Redevelopment Agency Advisory Board is Wednesday, March 22, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. in Veterans Conference Room.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Community Redevelopment Agency Advisory Board, Chair Jamie Barati adjourned the meeting at 3:33 p.m.



David Barilla
Assistant Director



Felix Roman
Board Secretary