LAWRENCE REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING — MAY 22, 2019

The members of the Lawrence Redevelopment Authority met in Regular Session on May 22, 2019, in the Planning Dept., 12 Methuen St., Lawrence, MA at 5:30PM.

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Evan Silverio and upon Roll call, the following were:

Present: Evan Silverio, Chair
          Elias Rodriguez, Vice Chair
          Ana Medina, Voting Member

Also Present: Anne-Marie Nyhan Doherty, Administrative Asst.
              Atty. Larry Mayo, Legal Counsel

A copy of the NOTICE OF MEETING pursuant to Section 23A of Chapter 39 of the General Laws with the Certification as to Service of Notice of Meeting attached was read and order spread upon the minutes of this meeting and filed for the record.

NOTICE OF MEETING

Notice is hereby given in accordance with Section 23A of Chapter 39 of the General Laws that a regular meeting of the Lawrence Redevelopment Authority will be held on April 11, 2019 in the Planning Dept., 12 Methuen St., 1st floor, Lawrence, MA at 5:30PM.

LAWRENCE REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Anne-Marie Nyhan-Doherty
Administrative Assistant
May 8, 2019

CERTIFICATION AS TO SERVICE OF NOTICE OF MEETING

I, Anne-Marie Nyhan-Doherty, Administrative Assistant to the Lawrence Redevelopment Authority, Lawrence, MA do hereby certify that on May 8, 2019 there was filed in the manner provided by Section 23A of Chapter 39 of the General Laws with the Clerk of the City of Lawrence a NOTICE OF MEETING of which the following is a true copy. IN TESTIMONY THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and the seal of the Lawrence Redevelopment Authority.

Anne-Marie Nyhan-Doherty
Administrative Assistant

Upon a motion made by Mr. Rodriguez and seconded by Ms. Medina, the members unanimously voted to open the public meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Lane Glenn, President of NECC – Presentation on the LHS Scholarship Program

Mr. Silverio stated that he wanted to bring Mr. Glenn in to talk about a movement regarding education and scholarships.

Mr. Lane addressed the members. He stated that they work very closely with the education system. He told of the early college program at Northern Essex Community College (NECC) in which a student is able to accrue credits which not only saves time but also funds. He said that the Smith Family foundation has provided a $2 million dollar grant which is designed so that NECC and Merrimack College can work together in funding scholarships. They want to make sure the students in the early college program actually go on to receive a college degree.

Mr. Glenn continued. He told of the Early College Program which graduated 47 students last night. He said that the Stevens Foundation contributed $250,000 and a permanent goal of $1 million is desired. He provided a handout entitled Northern Essex community College Lawrence Promise Program. He said that the hope is in the next month or two they will hit their goal with public participation. Overtime, they will continue to raise the money.

Mr. Silverio stated that education is key and the more kids can get a scholarship and college education it will change the dynamics of the City. He personally contributed himself he noted. He said that a contribution by the LRA could be possible. Atty. Mayo would need to overlook the documents.

Ms. Medina stated that she was all for it.

Mr. Rodriguez asked what percentage of the students went to college that participated in the Early College Program this year.
Mr. Glenn answered that 26 of the students are going to NECC and the rest are going to college as well. They are given financial aid advice, counseling on tuition, etc.

Ms. Medina asked how many from the Vocational School are participating.

Mr. Glenn stated that they do work with the Vocational School however he did not know the financial numbers.

Mr. Silverio thanked Mr. Glenn for his presentation and informed him the members would keep him updated on any decision made.

OLD BUSINESS

Common Street letter

Mrs. Doherty and Atty. Mayo explained.

Atty. Mayo stated that the Land Disposition Agreement on this piece of property that requires it to be used for parking. This is a separate document from the Urban Renewal Plan that has actually expired. The Land Disposition Agreement still applies so in order for the substation to be built there the Board needs to waive this condition. Considering that the Buckley Transportation Center is directly across the street with available parking, he felt that the need for parking could be abated.

Atty. Mayo showed the letter to Mr. Piemonte, the owner of the property and his attorney, Atty. Kyle J. Scandore.

Upon a motion made by Ms. Medina and seconded by Mr. Rodriguez, the members unanimously voted to waive and release the premises known as and numbered 316 Common Street, Lawrence, Massachusetts from all of the terms, conditions and restrictions set forth in that certain Land Disposition Agreement dated June 1, 1982 pertaining to the Broadway-Essex Urban Renewal Plan recorded with Essex County North District Registry of Deeds in Book 1599, Page 32.

Urban Renewal Process

The lighting of the Casey Bridge update

There was nothing to report on the Casey Bridge lighting. The Planning Dept. is still waiting for the invoice from Giombetti.

Miscellaneous

Mr. Silverio told the members that the City has received a $40,000 Mass Development grant that is unrestricted for purposes of making storefront improvements to buildings in the eligible Historic Downtown District. The fiscal operator is the Lawrence Partnership.

Ms. Jessica Martinez, the Transformative Development Fellow for the City, stated that Administrative Services were not budgeted.

Discussion ensued on the grants that are limited to property owners within the TDI boundary. Ms. Martinez distributed a copy of the boundary limits. The grants are to be from $5,000.00 to $15,000 with a 50/50 match. They for see smaller projects, perhaps 7 in total. The grant monies could be used for design assistance and construction. The technical assistance comes with it from
CUBE 3. Their time is pro-bono, however the product must be paid for. The hope is that this could be a partnership of the LRA, Lawrence Partnership and the City. She said that they are trying to make the application process as simple as possible. It will live on the Lawrence Partnership website with fillable pdfs. There will be a guideline and the application available. Targeted outreach and word of mouth will be the process to inform the public.

Mr. Silverio stated that the applications are to be pre-screened through Mr. Rodriguez and reviewed in July by the LRA.

Ms. Martinez stated that they must be within the design guidelines and budget.

Discussion ensued on the process.

Ms. Martinez stated that the deadline for applications is July 12th.

Iluminación Lawrence

Mr. Silverio told the Board that there would be a soft launch of the lighting. The public will gather in Pemberton Park. The Lawrence High Band will be present and glow sticks will be handed out. The lighting will take place on the Bridge and the Clock Tower. The lighting program will be finalized over the summer.

Lawrence Riverfront Industrial Park

This agenda item will remain tabled.

One Mill St.

License Agreement Renewal

The proper insurance certificate was received and reviewed by Atty. Mayo. The license agreement is finalized to be mailed to the manager of the restaurant/bar. The $5000.00 check will now be deposited.

BOARD BUSINESS

Insurance and Bonding issue

Mrs. Doherty stated that since the LRA has a Vice Treasurer now she will wait for Ms. Melancon to attend and they can both fill out the proper paperwork.

MMDT Investments

Mr. Rodriguez stated that we have the accounts and he will follow up with Mr. Raffa.

Acceptance of Minutes

Upon a motion made by Ms. Medina and seconded by Mr. Rodriguez, the members unanimously voted to accept the minutes of the April 11, 2019 meeting.
**LRA Accounts**

A handout detailing the LRA accounts was distributed to the Board.

**Invoices**

**Attorney Mayo**

*Upon a motion made by Mr. Rodriguez and seconded by Ms. Medina, the members unanimously voted to authorize payment of Atty. Mayo’s invoice dated May 2, 2019 in the amount of $750.00 to be paid from the retainer account.*

**Anne-Marie Nyhan-Doherty**

*Upon a motion made by Ms. Melancon and seconded by Mr. Rodriguez, the members unanimously voted to authorize payment of Ms. Nyhan-Doherty’s May invoice in the amount of $250.00.*

**Correspondence**

A cancellation of the insurance policy was received relative to the former carrier for One Mill St.

It was noted that Atty. Mayo will draft a document relative to the scholarship that was discussed at the beginning of the meeting.

With no more business before the members,

*Upon a motion made by Ms. Medina and seconded by Mr. Rodriguez, the members unanimously voted to adjourn this meeting continuing any matters as noted.*