

MEETING MINUTES
Porter County Redevelopment Commission
Monday May 23, 2023

Location: County Administrative Center,
155 Indiana Avenue, Valparaiso IN Room 205

Members Present were: Jim Biggs, Jeremy Rivas, Don Ensign, and Andy Maletta as a non-voting member. Absent were Jason Gilliana and Bill Herring. Also present were Scott McClure and Stu Summers. Jim Biggs called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Consent Agenda

Minutes from the March 28, 2023 meeting were presented
The Financial Report was presented
Approval of Claims in the amount of \$5533.00 was presented.

MOTION: Don Ensign moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Jeremy Rivas seconded the motion and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

Forestry Grant Application

A grant application has been prepared for a \$300,000 tree planting program in South Haven and Portage Township properties. The \$150,000 Federal grant would be matched by \$150,000 in township and county funds. The Portage Township Trustee has offered to pay half of the local match (\$75,000) so that half of the trees can be planted on public township properties. The County Redevelopment Commission would provide the other \$75,000.

MOTION: Don Ensign moved to approve the match of \$75,000 for the Forestry Grant. Jeremy Rivas seconded the motion and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

Discussion:

Jeremy Rivas – He would like to know where the trees are needed.

Stu Summers – Residential areas, new drainage and along Highway 6. There needs to be a diversity of species. All that are growing now are Silver Maple.

Jim Biggs - Two elementary schools should have some planted there. Some should be available for residents to put in their yard.

OCRA Funding Eligibility in South Haven Area

OCRA has several Federal Community Development Block Grants that could be applied for. However, under CDBG regulations, funding can only go to areas where at least 50% +1 serve low to moderate income people. South Haven area is close to meeting that threshold. OCRA

allows local government to do special income surveys to determine eligibility in certain areas. The RDC Grant consultant is certified by OCRA to do such surveys. Stu Summers recommends that the RDC authorize Ms. Thomas to conduct an income survey of the South Haven area. The cost for this is not to exceed \$8,250.00. Funding is available in the Commission's approved budget for grants.

MOTION: Jeremy Rivas moved to authorize Mary Jane Thomas and Associates to do an income survey of the South Haven area. Jim Biggs seconded the motion and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

Clean Up a Public Section of Wetland Along US 6

A stretch of US 6 Commercial corridor is a wetland filled with litter and debris. The area between the Dairy Queen on the East and Burger King on the West needs to be cleaned up. The north portion of the property is public. Stu Summers asked for proposals to clean this area up. Out of four firms one accepted and quoted \$1,650.00. Stu Summers recommends accepting the proposal from Modern Edge in the amount of \$1,650. Funding is available in the Commission's property maintenance budget.

MOTION: Jeremy Rivas moved to accept the quote from Modern Edge in the amount of \$1,650 for clean up of property on US 6. Don Ensign seconded the motion and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

Discussion

Jeremy Rivas – Have this done now but then have the Highway Department maintain it.

South Haven Code Enforcement

Stu Summers presented 10 violations. He has asked Bob Thompson to send letters to eight of them. If this makes them comply, then good. If not, then they will be turned over to Attorney McClure. Stu Summers suggested that the Property Maintenance Ordinance be reviewed.

Status of RDC Activities

Stu Summers gave a brief review of TIF, Façade Program, Code Enforcement, USDA Programs, Affordable Internet and Grants.

Jim Biggs discussed Valpo Kiwanis and the need for a storage area for their ramps and equipment to make the ramps. If the RDC approved \$10,000 that will cover one year of rent for a building. If approved, it was suggested that the RDC hold the money and pay as needed. Attorney McClure explained the money is TIF money. The building they are looking at is in the County so legally this would be ok.

MOTION: Don Ensign moved to approved providing \$10,000 for Valpo Kiwanis to be used for rent of a space to store ramps and equipment to make the ramps. Jim Biggs seconded the motion and so approved with a 3-0 vote.

Next Meeting: June 27, 2023 4:30 p.m.

There being no further business to come before the Commission the meeting was adjourned.

Don Ensign, Secretary
Redevelopment Commission