

Fairgrounds Advisory Committee

COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Thursday – May 1, 2014 – 1:00pm

Members Present: Greg O’Neal, Craig Vanderburg, Kim Tandy, Frank Hammer,
Doris Ewing

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Michele Wildman, Michigan Land Bank
Jill Robinson, Michigan Land Bank

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman O’Neal called the meeting to order at 1:10 pm.

Jill Robinson presented the roll call. A quorum was declared.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman O’Neal presented the agenda for approval.

- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of Minutes
- Project Update from Magic Plus, LLC/REDICO
- Public Comment
- Adjourn

Motion: Member Tandy / ***Supported by:*** Member Vanderburg
“To accept agenda as articulated by Chairman O’Neal”

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Member Hammer suggested several additions to the minutes; Chairman O’Neal proposed that Member Hammer submit his changes to Jill Robinson for review by the FAC at the next meeting.

PROJECT UPDATE FROM MAGIC PLUS, LLC / REDICO

Several representatives were present at the meeting. Joel Ferguson from Magic Plus, LLC gave an overview of the project indicating that the project would be a mixed use development with restaurants, housing, greenspace that would be sensitive to all users including pedestrians, cyclists, and transit users.

Scott McCarthy from REDICO continued with more detail. He stated they are still putting the pieces together for this large project. They have had meetings with Semcog, DDOT, Smart – to understand their needs and how they can participate in the process. They are also trying to engage Amtrak. He indicated that Smithgroup has been selected as the master planner – he stated that they are local and experienced in transit oriented development.

They are engaged with some national firms that build market rate housing and could possibly have 350-500 units. There is also a potential educational component with a college, junior college and/or STEM programs.

Member Vanderburg asked how the community will be involved in the process. He recognizes that blanks need to be filled in, but they would like to be involved

Motion: Member Tandy / Supported by: Member Hammer

Would like the FAC to be provided information about any stipulations that are put into the purchase / development agreement prior to the vote of the MLB Board so the FAC has an opportunity to review and raise questions.

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

APRIL 23 LETTER FROM CHAIRMAN O'NEAL

The April 23 letter served as the agenda for this meeting.

Member of the public, Karen Hammer gave Chairman O'Neal a letter. He asked that it be put into the minutes from the meeting.

Member Hammer asked that the developer and development keep transit in mind.

PUBLIC MEETING

Member Hammer would like there to be another public meeting scheduled based on new information at the Northwest Activity Center.

Member Tandy thought a meeting might be good, but not until the timing of any visioning sessions is figured out.

Member Vanderburg thought that the FAC should call for a meeting when there is more information. He thought blasting out the information via email or websites regarding dates for the visioning sessions would be required. Members Tandy and Hammer along with Chairman O'Neal agreed.

Chairman O'Neal asked for assistance in getting the word out. Director Homan stated that the Detroit Future City team would help in this regard. Mario Morrow, Manager of Communications Outreach offered assistance as well.

Motion: Member Vanderburg / Supported by: Member Hammer

Move to develop communications plan about current status of property, which will lead to the visioning session communication blast.

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman O'Neal asked for public comments.

- Euni Rose, Southfield, MI read a letter into the record;
- Karen Hammer, Greenacres Woodward Civic Association read a letter into the record and submitted a petition regarding halting development until the RTA can review other concepts. Member Tandy mentioned that this had already be resolved and that meetings have happened with the RTA. Member Vanderburg stated that he assumed that the petition is off the table because the RTA has already become involved and suggested that they do not want to delay the project.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Member Tandy / *Supported by:* Member Hammer

MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Meeting was adjourned at 2:30pm

Respectfully submitted,
Jill Robinson
Property Analyst