

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE

Wednesday, June 8, 2022

Carnegie Training Room

08:30 AM

Present:

Commissioner Bill Collins

Commissioner Randy Quick

Doug Walker- City- Public Information and Marketing- Public Information Officer

Aundi Lesley- City- Downtown Development Authority- Director

Cindy Reed- City- Finance- Accountant, Grants/Internal Auditor

Meredith Ulmer- City Manager's Office- Assistant City Manager

Bekki Fox- City- Community Development- Director

Logan Drake- City- Community Development- Administrative Program Assistant

Molly Majestic- City- Community Development- CDBG Coordinator

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 8:27 AM. Commissioner Bill Collins asked for any corrections to the minutes from the April 2022 meeting. Not hearing any, the minutes were approved by common consent.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Bekki Fox:

- Fox provided copies of the department's progress report.
- **Action Item:** Fox needed approval on the following budget. The 2022 CDBG allocation is \$452,997.00 (which is \$21,000.00 less than 2021).
 - \$90,000.00 for CDBG Administration
 - \$362,997.00 for Banty Jones Park improvements
 - A total of \$452,997.00

The total above would just be for phase one of multiple phases. In addition to CDBG, there are Choice Neighborhood funds and possibly ARPA funds. A suggestion for other funding was to reach out to the community and utilize donations from various organizations. Specific components of the park, such as benches, shading, or landscaping, could be sponsored. **After discussion, the Committee acted as follows:**

- Commissioner Quick made a motion to approve the 2022 CDBG allocation totaling \$452,997.00, which was seconded by Commissioner Collins. Motion carried.
- The bid opening for the Banty Jones Sprayground is scheduled for June 16th at 2:00 PM. Part of the bid will include a design portion. Majestic provided copies of a presentation detailing potential ideas/photos gathered during a recent field trip to other spray grounds/splash pads in and around Atlanta, GA. Options were discussed.
- Housing rehab update:
 - Recent bids have been received for three Exterior Paint projects and one Roof Repair project. There are several other applications in progress.
- Rebecca Blaylock Child Development Center: The roof has been replaced and looks great. Interior work started this week. The entire project should be completed towards the end of July.
- The Maple Avenue Phase 3 sidewalk project from Maple at E. 12th and south to E. 14th is currently under construction. The project has stalled out for a few weeks as the contractor is awaiting piping that has been ordered for several weeks.
- The Rome-Floyd County Land Bank Authority (LBA) held their first ever planning session on April 21st. Experts from the Center for Community Progress facilitated the training. The LBA has formed sub-committees in an effort to better accomplish all the work and goals that need to be completed in the coming months. Fox and Amanda Carter will be attending a GALBA meeting in Macon, GA on June 9th through the 10th.
- Fox and Majestic will be attending a National Community Development Association conference in Saint Paul, MN on June 21st through the 24th.

Molly Majestic:

- Majestic provided copies of a brief overview detailing the City of Rome's participation in the Landlord Engagement Lab (LEL) program. The City being chosen to participate in this nationwide program will help local efforts to decrease homelessness and increase affordable housing. The LEL will help to both facilitate and strengthen relationships with "mom and pop" landlords. Policies, programs, and resources will all be developed in order to support small landlords and prevent evictions. Rome's LEL Team will consist of staff from the City, Housing Authority, Hardy Realty, Magistrate Court, United Way, and LBA. Open communication will be achieved through ongoing virtual meetings, hands-on technical support, surveys, group discussion and other activities.

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (DDA)

Aundi Leslie:

- Aundi Leslie provided copies of DDA's June 2022 progress report.
- In April - May 2022, there were three new businesses and five private rehabilitations.
- First Friday Concerts have started back up again. These free events are held at the Town Green. People can listen to live music with opening acts starting at 7:00 PM. The first event of the summer took place on June 3rd and was a success. Attendance was very high with vendors reporting they did well revenue-wise.
- **Updates:**
 - Kelli Duncan was recently sworn in as the newest DDA Board Member where she will represent the River District.
 - Wayfinding lettering will be done in the next couple of weeks thus wrapping up the Broad Street Beautification Project.
- DDA awarded the Rome Shakespeare Festival a \$1,000.00 Downtown Impact Grant for the 2022 festival. The event will take place June 8th - 12th at the Town Green.
- Due to the success of this past year's Rome Christmas Parade, Commissioner Quick announced that the Rome Christmas Parade Committee will soon be presenting DDA with a check of \$5,000.00.
- Commissioner Collins informed DDA that he was recently told that some residents of the Cotton Block do not feel like the City is cleaning the area as well as the rest of Downtown. Leslie stated that DDA was unaware of this claim but will look into the issue. Commissioner Collins added that there were some complaints about the bridge between Downtown and South Rome not being in adequate shape.
- Leslie said that the "Small Business Incubator" project is continuing to go well. She recently met with Georgia Power to put together the official foundation ask to cover the first year's programming costs.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 09:02 AM.

Respectfully submitted,



Logan Drake
Recording Secretary