

CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE

City Commission Special Meeting
West City Community Redevelopment Area Steering Committee Interviews
Monday, July 8, 2024

The City Commission met in formal session Monday, July 8, 2024, at 4:00 P.M. in the Alcazar Room at City Hall. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Nancy Sikes-Kline, and the following were present:

- 1. Roll Call:** Nancy Sikes-Kline, Mayor/City Commissioner
Roxanne Horvath, Vice Mayor/City Commissioner
Barbara Blonder, City Commissioner
Cynthia Garris, City Commissioner
Jim Springfield, City Commissioner

Also Present: David Birchim, City Manager
Isabelle Lopez, City Attorney
Darlene Galambos, City Clerk
Meredith Breidenstein, Assistant City Manager
Reuben Franklin, Assistant City Manager
Jamie D. Perkins, Neighborhood Services & Community Redevelopment Agency Manager
Jennifer Michaux, Police Chief
Elyse Wiemann, Recording Secretary

2. General Public Comments

The Commissioners heard from the following members of the public:

(None)

3. WEST CITY COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AREA STEERING COMMITTEE REQUIREMENTS West City Community Redevelopment Area Steering Committee Requirements. (J. Perkins, Neighborhood Services & Community Redevelopment Agency Manager)

Jamie D. Perkins, Neighborhood Services & Community Redevelopment Agency Manager, provided a brief overview of the qualifications and requirements for a Steering Committee that was requested after the adoption of the Finding of Necessity in June. She said the request

was for a temporary five-member committee and the goal would be to aid in the development of strategic goals, programs, projects, and activities to incorporate into the Agency's West City Redevelopment Plan.

Commissioner Horvath asked if there was a reason for only five members instead of appointing all seven applicants.

Ms. Perkins said there was not; however, they were trying to maintain consistency with the other Community Redevelopment Area Steering Committees.

Commissioner Garris noted she heard from Brook Bohall who noted she was unable to attend.

Commissioner Blonder requested time after the interviews for questions.

4. APPLICANT INTERVIEWS AND Q&A (3 MINUTES PER APPLICANT)

4.A. Brook Bohall

Brook Bohall was not present.

4.B. Arthur Culbert, Ph.D.

Arthur Culbert, Ph.D., provided a brief introduction of himself and the reasons why he wanted to be on the West City Steering Committee.

4.C. BJ Kalaidi

BJ Kalaidi provided a brief introduction of herself and the reasons why she wanted to be on the West City Steering Committee.

4.D. Jeffrey Kempf

Jeffrey Kempf provided a brief introduction of himself and the reasons why he wanted to be on the West City Steering Committee.

4.E. Dianya Markovits

Dianya Markovits provided a brief introduction of herself and the reasons why she wanted to be on the West City Steering Committee

4.F. Jeanne Moeller

Jeanne Moeller was not present.

4.G. Wanda Sams

Wanda Sams provided a brief introduction of herself and the reasons why she wanted to be on the West City Steering Committee

Commissioner Blonder said she had a couple of questions for each candidate which were:

- What made you proud to be involved in or a resident of West City

- What was your highest priority to address in West City

Mayor Sikes-Kline asked if the Commission was in favor of asking the applicants.

Commissioner Springfield said his concern was not everyone was present and would not have the opportunity to speak. He recommended that all seven were appointed. He said there was no reason not to have seven as they were very dedicated individuals as stated, and all had different factors to contribute.

Commissioner Horvath said she agreed.

Commissioner Blonder said she agreed, but felt it was their responsibility to learn more from them and about West City. She said she felt this would help her be a better commissioner. She said it was not a deciding factor but a way to learn.

Mayor Sikes-Kline asked if there was an issue with changing the composition of the steering committee and accepting all seven applicants.

Commissioner Horvath was in support of all seven applicants being appointed.

Commissioner Blonder asked if Ms. Perkins would accept the change.

Ms. Perkins said there were no reservations from her for appointing all seven, as they all provided different perspectives, and she was in favor.

MOTION

Commissioner Springfield MOVED to appoint all seven applicants to the West City CRA Steering Committee. The motion was SECONDED by Commissioner Horvath and APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.

Commissioner Blonder said in effort to get to know more about the committee

members, could they answer the questions she posed.

Commissioner Garris requested the members to express how they saw West City.

Mayor Sikes-Kline reiterated the questions:

- What do you value most about the neighborhood
- What was your vision for West Augustine and how it could improve

Ms. Sams stated her community was a family and everyone looked out for each other. She said she noticed many projects but thought the area was good, as were the people and she enjoyed living there.

Ms. Markovits said she was most proud of how diverse it was and the history of the neighborhood. She said she would like to see the history celebrated and make the area safe.

Mr. Kempf said he valued that West City was his home and that it was close to the downtown area without being a tourist neighborhood. He said his vision would be to focus on West King between Pellicer Lane and Palmer Street.

Ms. Kalaidi said she valued being a part of the entire City and she took pride in the area. She said being involved as much as possible was important and encourages those in the neighborhood to have pride and work together to improve the situation. She said her vision was to have sidewalks, septic tanks, and have a fix-it-up program.

Mr. Culbert thanked the Board for recommending all the applicants. He said the best thing about West Augustine was diversity and the area was welcoming. He said the highest priority was the racial healing that needed to continue to take place. He talked about the history of the area in relation to Civil Rights and the new history museum, he felt this was an incredible opportunity.

Mayor Sikes-Kline said until the Committee members had their orientation with Ms. Perkins, she cautioned them about the Sunshine Law.

5. Items by City Staff

Ms. Lopez asked the committee members to contact her office as there was mandatory training on the Sunshine law and public records. She said since they were now appointed, to avoid speaking to other committee members until at a noticed public meeting.

Commissioner Blonder thanked Mayor Sikes-Kline for the interview suggestion as she felt it was a great group of individuals who would assist in helping the CRA get started. She thanked the committee members for being willing to volunteer their time.

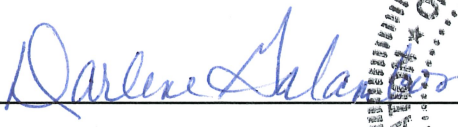
Commissioner Springfield thanked Commissioner Garris as this was one of her main priorities and felt she had worked hard to get this started.

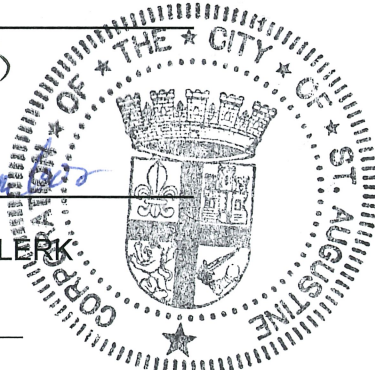
Commissioner Garris said this was a blessing and with Ms. Perkins leading the way, it would be very beneficial to West Augustine. She thanked the other Commissioners for their support.

6. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:35 P.M.¹


Nancy Sikes-Kline, MAYOR


Darlene Galambos, CITY CLERK



¹ Transcribed by Elyse Wiemann