

City of Clearwater

*Main Library - Council Chambers
100 N. Osceola Avenue
Clearwater, FL 33755*



Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 13, 2020

Virtual Meeting

8:30 AM

Main Library - Council Chambers

Brownfields Advisory Board

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 20-69, issued by the Office of Governor Ron DeSantis on March 20, 2020, municipalities may conduct meetings of their governing boards without having a quorum of its members present physically or at any specific location, and utilizing communications media technology such as telephonic or video conferencing, as provided by Section 120.54(5)(b)2, Florida Statutes.

Roll Call

Present 5 - Chair Joseph DeCicco, Board Member Janelle Branch, Board Member Eleanore Lyda, Board Member Mark Parry, and Board Member Julie Phillips

Absent 3 - Board Member Sioux Hart, Board Member Thomas Hinson Jr., and Board Member Leedrilla Jenkins

Also Present - Denise Sanderson – Economic Development & Housing Director, Chuck Lane – Economic Development & Housing Assistant Director, Philip Kirkpatrick - Senior Economic Development Coordinator, and Patricia O. Sullivan – Board Reporter

Awaiting approval

1. Call To Order – Chair Joseph DeCicco

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. Chair Joseph DeCicco and Board Members Mark Parry, Julie Phillips, Eleanore Lyda, and Janelle Branch attended the meeting using communications media technology. Also participating in the meeting were Economic Development & Housing Director Denise Sanderson, Economic Development & Housing Assistant Director Chuck Lane, Senior Economic Development Coordinator Philip Kirkpatrick, and Board Reporter Patricia Sullivan. Live participation occurred in Council Chambers at the Main Library.

To provide continuity for research, items are in agenda order although not necessarily discussed in that order.

2. Approval of Minutes

2.1 Approve the minutes of the December 3, 2018 Brownfields Advisory Board meeting.

Member Parry moved to approve the minutes of the December 3, 2018 Brownfields Advisory Board meeting as submitted in written summation. The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

3. Citizens to be Heard Regarding Items Not on the Agenda: None.

4. New Business Items

4.1 Recommend City Council support of Environmental Protection Agency FY21 Brownfield Assessment Grant Application.

On August 17, 2020, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

released Request for Applications (RFA) Number EPA-OLEM-OBLR-20-06 and its FY21 Guidelines for Brownfield Assessment Grants.

The City is seeking a Communitywide Assessment Grant of up to \$300,000 to address sites contaminated by hazardous substances and/or petroleum. If awarded, funds may be used for direct costs associated with the inventory, site prioritization, community involvement, site reuse planning, assessment, and cleanup planning for brownfield sites, including direct costs associated with programmatic management of the grant such as required performance reporting and environmental oversight. There is no matching fund requirement and staff does not anticipate any general fund expenditures.

The Application must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. on October 28, 2020. The announcement of grant awards is expected in Spring/Summer 2021.

The Brownfields Advisory Board is convening to discuss the proposed grant application submittal. Following today's meeting, staff will submit a memo to Council prior to its October 14 City Council meeting and include any additional information the Advisory Board wishes Council to consider.

A critical component of the EPA's Brownfield Program is to ensure that residents living in communities historically affected by economic disinvestment, health disparities, and environmental contamination have an opportunity to reap the benefits from brownfields redevelopment. The Program has a rich history rooted in environmental justice and is committed to helping communities revitalize brownfield properties, mitigate potential health risks and restore economic vitality.

City staff presented this item to City Council at the October 12 Work Session to inform them and the public of the grant opportunity. While not asked to approve the item, the Council unanimously supported the grant application.

Economic Development & Housing Assistant Director Chuck Lane reviewed the Staff Report. EPA guidelines modified engagement strategy requirements due to the pandemic; today's meeting provided the public with information opportunities re the EPA's Brownfield Program. Although the City has not received a Brownfield Communitywide Assessment Grant for several years, the EPA has funded more than 100 brownfield projects in Clearwater including cleanup of the Harbor Oaks Shopping Center site, the 1100 Cleveland Street site, etc.

Chair DeCicco reported the City neared completion on the cleanup/remediation of the brownfield Car Pro site on Cleveland Street. Mr. Lane said the City had purchased property abutting the site to improve its redevelopment potential.

Mr. Lane reviewed a PowerPoint presentation of a proposal to develop 171

workforce housing units and public parking on City-owned property at 306 S. Washington Avenue. An unconditional Site Rehabilitation Completion Order was issued following environmental remediation of this former brownfield site. The developers were seeking funding opportunities and proposed to develop the site to its maximum density and feature green spaces.

Member Parry moved to recommend City Council support of the Environmental Protection Agency FY 2021 Brownfield Assessment Grant Application. The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously

4.2 Election of Officers

Member Parry moved to reappoint Joseph DeCicco as Chair. The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

Chair DeCicco moved to appoint Mark Parry as Vice Chair. The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

5. Old Business Items: None.

6. Director's Report: None.

Economic Development & Housing Director Denise Sanderson said the Brownfields Advisory Board will be more active if the City is awarded the Brownfield Assessment Grant.

7. Board Members to be Heard: None.

8. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.

Chair
Brownfields Advisory Board

Attest:

Board Reporter