



City of Racine

City Hall
730 Washington Ave.
Racine, WI 53403
www.cityofracine.org

Meeting Minutes - Final Redevelopment Authority of the City of Racine

James T. Spangenberg
David Lange
Jim Chambers
Josh Garner
Doug Nicholson
Q.A. Shakoor, II
Robert Anderson

Monday, March 4, 2013

5:15 PM

City Hall, Room 106

Call To Order

PRESENT: 6 - James T. Spangenberg, David Lange, Jim Chambers, Josh Garner, Doug Nicholson and Robert Anderson

EXCUSED: 1 - Q.A. Shakoor, II

Others present:

Mayor John Dickert
Matthew Sadowski, Assistant Director of City Development
Michelle Logan, Secretary of City Development
Debra Karp, UW-Parkside
Maia Hausler, AmeriCorp VISTA Volunteer

Approval of Minutes for the February 4, 2013 Meeting.

[13-8717](#)

Subject: (Direct Referral) Communication from Debra Karp, Director of Community Engagement, University of Wisconsin-Parkside, seeking reauthorization of matching funds for VISTA volunteers from the intergovernmental revenue sharing funds for the Launch Box initiative and the Department of City Development, and the Sustainable Edible Economic Development initiative. (Res. No. 13-0142)

Recommendation of the Redevelopment Authority on 3-4-13: That the Authority supports the use of \$22,000.00 from the Intergovernmental Sewer Revenue Sharing fund for matching funds for VISTA volunteers for business development programs.

Further recommends that this item be referred to the Finance and Personnel Committee for its review and approval.

Recommendation of the Finance & Personnel Committee on 3-25-13: That the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized and directed to enter into the agreement with the University of Wisconsin-Parkside for

two VISTA volunteers to help staff economic development efforts.

Fiscal Note: The city has the opportunity to again obtain two VISTA volunteers. The volunteers would be utilized to support activities related to economic development initiatives. During this grant cycle, activities of the Launch Box business development initiative, the Department of City Development, and Sustainable Edible Economic Development (SEED) would be assisted. The VISTA program requires a local match/stipend of \$11,000.00 per volunteer. Funds are available in the Intergovernmental Revenue Sharing (919) Account.

Attachments: [VISTA Redevelopment Authority ltr](#)
[RDA Res. 13-04](#)

Assistant Director Sadowski explained that last year we funded a match used to help employ an AmeriCorp VISTA Volunteer to help with the Launch Box and other economic development activities with Racine County Economic Development Corporation (RCEDC) Launch Box initiative, Sustainable Edible Economic Development (SEED), Racine Urban Garden Network (RUGN), and Homeless Assistance Leadership Organization (HALO). He stated this year the City would share the VISTA Volunteer with the RCEDC Launch Box initiative to assist with corridor areas, brownfields, preservation workshops, etc... The other organizations would continue to share their volunteer as they have in the past.

Ms. Debra Karp, UW-Parkside, explained that the AmeriCorp VISTA program is a one-year volunteer commitment. Each VISTA is paid \$900 per month and they all receive a substantial amount of training. All of the VISTAs from UW-Parkside work in Racine and in economic development and poverty awareness.

Maia Hausler, the current VISTA for the SEED, explained the different programs she has been working on such as CAFÉ SEED which focuses on serving locally grown food and HALO kitchen recipe for success. She is also working towards obtaining a farmers' market promotion grant through the USDA and to build a HOOP House to be able to have locally grown food year-round.

Assistant Director Sadowski explained that the previous VISTA volunteer worked with RCEDC to produce flyers and other promotional material, and assisted in Fast Pitch and Launch Box.

Chairman Spangenberg clarified that the request is for \$22,000 in Intergovernmental Funds. The amount being requested is the same as last year's request.

A motion was made by Commissioner Nicholson, seconded by Commissioner Garner, to adopt RDA Resolution 13-04, recommending approval of the authorization of matching funds for the VISTA program. The motion PASSED by a Voice Vote.

13-8578

Subject: (Direct Referral) Communication from Alpha Terra Science seeking a change order for environmental work at 1425 North Memorial Drive, Racine Steel Castings.

Assistant Director Sadowski stated that while reviewing the billing, Alpha Terra realized that we were billed incorrectly. We are actually \$600.00 under budget so there is no change order needed.

A motion was made by Commissioner Chambers, seconded by Commissioner Nicholson, to receive and file the item. The motion PASSED by a Voice Vote.

CLOSED SESSION

Chairman Spangenberg read the following closed session notice:

It is intended that the Authority will convene in closed session pursuant to section 19.85 (1) (e) and (f), Wisconsin Statutes, to consider the following matters that require a closed session for competitive and bargaining reasons and for consideration of financial data, after which the Authority will reconvene in open session to consider these and other matters on the agenda.

At 5:26 p.m. a motion was made by Commissioner Garner, seconded by Commissioner Chambers, to go into Closed Session. The motion PASSED by the following vote:

AYES: 6 - James T. Spangenberg, David Lange, Jim Chambers, Josh Garner, Doug Nicholson and Robert Anderson

EXCUSED: 1 - Q.A. Shakoor, II

Status report on potential property acquisitions.

OPEN SESSION

At 5:50 p.m. a motion was made by Commissioner Lange, seconded by Commissioner Chambers, to reconvene into Open Session. The motion PASSED by the following vote:

AYES: 6 - James T. Spangenberg, David Lange, Jim Chambers, Josh Garner, Doug Nicholson and Robert Anderson

EXCUSED: 1 - Q.A. Shakoor, II

Administrative Business

Status report on on-going projects

Assistant Director Sadowski explained the gentleman that was interested in 1418 Washington Avenue had to take a step back; however, he is still interested in the property and currently working with Kristin Niemiec from RCEDC.

A letter was sent to the owner of 1526 Washington Avenue requesting a timeline of when the restaurant and cabinet shop would be open. The deadline has past and now the next step will need to be determined. RDA members will be kept up to date.

Commissioner Anderson asked about the demolition of 1516 Washington Avenue. Assistant Director Sadowski explained there were some issues with foundation reinforcement and shared walls with neighboring buildings. These issues are being addressed.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Chairman Spangenberg adjourned the meeting at 5:54 p.m.