



**RENEW ARLINGTON CRA (RA/CRA) ADVISORY BOARD  
ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING – (NO PHYSICAL LOCATION)  
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2020 – 3:30 p.m.**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Location:** Due to COVID-19, the RA/CRA Advisory Board meeting was held via Zoom.

**RA/CRA Advisory Board Members Present:** Advisory Board Chair Matt Tuohy, Stephen Matchett, Raj Adhikari, Dee Dee Harper, Bandele Onasayna, Danyuell Newkirk and Monty Selim

**RA/CRA Advisory Board Members Absent:** Randall Goodwin

**Staff Present:** Kirk Wendland, OED Executive Director; Karen Nasrallah, Redevelopment Manager; Brian Wheeler; OED Staff and Angie Slayton, Recording Secretary

**Representing the Office of General Counsel:** Susan Grandin

**Representing City Council:** Councilwoman J. Morgan, City Council District 1

**Others Present:** Taylor Meja, The Southern Group; Jim Gilmore, The Southern Group, Chet Aikens, Exec Council Assistant; Nikki Evans, Exec Council Assistant; Chris LeDew, Traffic Engineer

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

A quorum was confirmed and Chair M. Tuohy called the Renew Arlington CRA (RA/CRA) Advisory Board meeting to order at approximately 3:30 p.m.

**II. ACTION ITEMS**

**APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 9, 2020 RENEW ARLINGTON COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AREA (RA/CRA) ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

***A MOTION WAS MADE AND SECONDED APPROVING THE SEPTEMBER 9, 2020 RENEW ARLINGTON ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY 7-0.***

### III. GENERAL INFORMATION

#### **Discussion on Arlington Road Parking Zones/Traffic Operations**

Mr. Brian Wheeler, Office of Economic Development, shared a presentation to review a CRA Infrastructure – Roadway & Mobility project for consideration. The project, as written in the CRA Plan, would change the current configuration of Arlington Road which is currently a four-lane road. The new design would include a dedicated left turn lane, bicycle lanes and parallel parking on both sides of the road. Also included in the design would be a “safe zone” for pedestrians crossing the street to have a secure space to stop in the center of the median. The estimated average cost is \$5.5 million per mile.

Mr. Wheeler recommended a “Trial by Stripe” project consisting of removing the current striping/paint on the asphalt or possibly removing some asphalt and repainting it to replicate the repurposing road project as mentioned in the CRA Plan. Mr. Wheeler stated this process, as it is a lower cost, acts as a trial area for motorists/pedestrians and provides us with data that can be used in the design when a full construction project is considered.

Included in the basic traffic operation costs:

- Pavement Markings ( \$15,000 per mile)
- Signage (\$350 each)
- Signal Timings

Mr. Chris LeDew, Chief of Traffic Engineering, voiced his agreement that the design Mr. Wheeler presented would improve pedestrian safety and traffic flow. Mr. LeDew suggested an Operational Analysis of the Signalized Intersections be completed before this project begins. Mr. LeDew asked if an analysis for a roundabout at Cesery Road and Arlington Road. Currently, there is not a roundabout planned for that intersection. Mr. LeDew also suggested Councilmember Morgan host a community meeting to speak with the community on this subject.

Mr. Kirk Wendland, Director of Office of Economic Development, suggested Mr. Wheeler and Mr. LeDew work together on the planning and creating an estimated project budget. Mr. Wendland also suggested placing the two projects on Arlington Road using the Mandatory Grant Program on hold until the design and construction are completed as not to have to duplicate work.

Mr. LeDew did suggest that the road be resurfaced prior to restriping due to visibility hazards. Estimated cost for resurfacing will be researched for the next meeting.

#### **Outdoor Display of Merchandise Opinion**

Ms. Susan Grandin, Office of General Counsel, the Director of Planning and Development has final say of outdoor merchandising. Per Zoning Code Section 656.701, notwithstanding any other provision in the Ordinance Code, nothing shall authorize the continuance of any use or activity

that has specifically been made unlawful, impermissible, or similarly prohibited and where the Council has stated that such unlawful use shall not be allowed to continue beyond a specified date or event. Ms. Grandin advised, the Overlay needs to be updated to include a definitive date to end outside displays.

Chair Tuohy asked could merchandise be placed between the sidewalk and the buildings or on the sidewalk. Ms. Grandin replied, merchandise on the sidewalks is illegal. It was decided that a more in-depth discussion is needed on this subject.

Mr. Wendland suggested that prior to seeking City Council approval on changes, make a list of the requested changes and present them all at one time.

#### **IV. NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. Karen Nasrallah advised the next scheduled meeting is on Wednesday, November 11, 2020, which happens to be Veteran's Day, and city offices will be closed. Ms. Nasrallah suggested combining the November and December meetings to a December meeting. Ms. Nasrallah will check with the Advisory Board Members on availability.

Ms. Nasrallah also reviewed the active applications spreadsheet that she created. The spreadsheet tracks what grants each business are applying for. Currently, the Advisory Board Members do not have projects that will require their review for funding.

Chair Tuohy requested the board members to review their Ethics training for renewal.

Advisory Board Member Matchett reference a News4Jax article related to the multiple shootings/injuries in Arlington overnight. Over the past month, there have been multiple more shootings in the area. He stated that something needs to be done about the crime in the area. Advisory Board Member Matchett feels this is affecting the business opportunities in the area.

Advisory Board Member Matchett would like to see:

- Crime Free Multi-Housing become an Ordinance
  - It is currently a voluntary program.
  - This program is currently mandatory in other cities and states.
  - He would like the CRA Advisory Board to be more involved in crime reduction.
  - He would like for performance standards for apartments be implemented.

Councilwoman Morgan advised there is a new Zone Commander, Assistant Chief Burton. She has been meeting with multiple members and business owners in the community to address some of these issues.

## **V. OLD BUSINESS**

Advisory Board Member Matchett advised the Renew Arlington CRA was established due to the large finding of blight in the area. This is still a large concern for the area. Advisory Board Member Matchett stated this is due to:

- Lack of communication/enforcement by JSO and Municipal Code and Compliance.
- It can take weeks for JSO to respond to Municipal Code and Compliance requests.
- Restrictions on the inspector's activities (access to private property).
- Violators are not held accountable and become repeat offenders.
- Inspectors do not communicate or follow through on offenses.

Advisory Board Member Matchett recommended that the CRA allocate \$100,000 to the Neighborhoods Department to provide additional dedicated code enforcement efforts to the Renew Arlington CRA area. A request would be made of the Neighborhoods Department for an outline of their proposed use of the funds and related enforcement strategies.

Advisory Board Member Matchett made a motion for this recommendation; however, it was not seconded.

Chair Tuohy and Mr. Wendland recommended the Renew Arlington Advisory CRA Board Members consider the possibilities of this recommendation and bring their comments, concerns and possibilities to the next meeting for further discussion.

## **VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

## **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chair M. Tuohy adjourned the RA/CRA Advisory Board Meeting at approximately 4:40 p.m.

The written minutes for this meeting are only an overview of what was discussed. For verbatim comments of this meeting, an audio file of the meeting is available in its entirety and is available upon request. Please contact Karen Nasrallah at (904) 255-5449, or by email at [karenn@coj.net](mailto:karenn@coj.net).