

TOWN OF PORTER
Redevelopment Commission
Special Meeting
303 Franklin Street
January 14, 2011

Meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Present: President Bruce Snyder, Michele Bollinger, LeAnn McCrum, Trevin Fowler, and Ron Stone.

Absent: Al Raffin

Also present: Attorney Patrick Lyp, Director of Engineering Matt Keiser, and Secretary Karen Spanier.

Mr. Snyder stated he received notification from Mr. Raffin that he would not be present at tonight's meeting. Mr. Raffin is aware of the agenda and the re-organization and agrees it is ok to proceed.

Mr. Snyder read a statement he prepared and asked that it be included in the minutes, he affirmed all Of the great things the Town has been experiencing and the great strides taken in the last few years to move the Town forward. He is looking forward to serving on the Commission this year; however, he will not be a candidate for 2011 president due to health reasons and time constraints. Statement attached here within.

Re-organization

Mrs. McCrum made the motion to nominate the following: Michele Bollinger as President, Al Raffin as Vice-President and Karen Spanier as Secretary, with Mr. Fowler making the second.

Motion carried. 4-0

Gavel was passed to newly elect President Michele Bollinger.

Consideration of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Motion to approve minutes of the December 14, 2010 meeting was made by Mr. Snyder, second made by Mr. Fowler.

Motion carried 4-0.

Consideration of Claim Docket

Mr. Fowler made the motion to approve the claim docket as presented, with Mrs. McCrum making the second.

Motion carried. 4-0

Audience Participation

None

Reports

Director of Engineering Matt Keiser announced that next week we will be in Indianapolis on the recommendation of SEH to seek Year 2 funding for the RDA Grant.

Also, Mr. Keiser asked the Commission for their consideration of the yearly SEH contract for Economic Development.

Mrs. Bollinger asked if a motion needed to be made for Year 2 funding of the RDA Grant.

Attorney Lyp stated formal action was taken when the RDA application was submitted; the RDA approved the Grant and broke funding down into phases or years. No official action is required unless someone does not want to follow what was submitted.

No one was opposed to Year 2 funding request.

Since the SEH Contract was not on the agenda, the Commission by consensus allowed a motion for approval. Motion to approve SEH Contract as presented was made by Mr. Snyder with Mrs. McCrum making the second. Motion carried. 4-0

Mr. Keiser stated he attended the Chesterton Town Council meeting in December seeking approval for the Orchard Pedestrian Trail where it will cross over onto Chesterton's right-of-way. Chesterton did agree with the concept of going across their right-of-way but they do want an inter-local agreement. Mr. Keiser asked the commission for approval for Attorney Lyp to start drafting an agreement for Chesterton's Attorney review. By consensus the Commission gave approval to start the draft agreement.

Keiser announced the DEDC is offering \$30,000.00 this year for Façade Grants to local businesses. Last year the RDC and the Town Council financed matching funds to three of the Town of Porter's businesses that were awarded the grants. A workshop has been set up for 9:00 a.m. on Friday, January 21st; any business that fronts a street in the Town may apply. The applications need to be submitted to the DEDC by February 23rd.

Mr. Snyder made the motion for the RDC to participate in providing matching funds for those businesses in the Town of Porter being awarded Façade Grants, with Mr. Fowler making the second.

Motion carried. 4-0

The RDC can match only businesses that are in the TIF district, the Town Council may pick up any remaining contributions.

Old Business

For the review of the sub-area plan, the Commission by consensus re-scheduled the Gateway Workshop to Tuesday, January 25th, 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. with the regular meeting included with this time.

New Business

None

Commission Comments

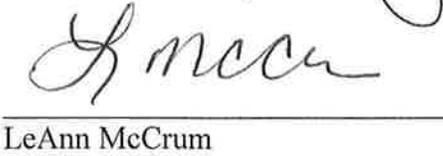
To improve communications, Mr. Fowler has requested the RDC President or designee give a report on current projects that the RDC has going on to the Town Council at one of their Tuesday meetings.

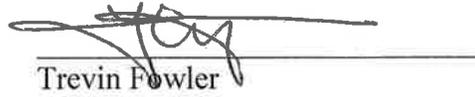
Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Bruce Snyder, with LeAnn McCrum making the second.
Meeting Adjourned at 4:20 p.m.


Michele Bollinger, President


Bruce Snyder


LeAnn McCrum


Trevin Fowler

Attest: 
Karen Spanier, Secretary

The Town of Porter has been experiencing great things. From taking advantage of our beautiful lake shore to promote tourism by enhancing our Town with the Gateway Project, to upgrading a collapsing sewer system, to planning development of our downtown area to a vibrant economic engine. We have taken great strides these past few years to move our Town forward and at the same time preserving it as a special place to live and work.

Town of Porter citizens can be proud of their town officials and their vision and leadership. The fact that we have received awards such as the Duneland Chamber's "Putting Duneland on the Map", an award from Northwest Indiana Paddlers Association acknowledging our efforts to open up the Little Calumet for canoeing and recreation, and another Award from the National Lakeshore for our progressive thinking and planning... reinforces the fact that we are headed in the right direction. Add to all this the fact that local banks believe in what is happening and are investing in Porter, and taxpayer monies have been reinvested and stay right here in our town through RDA and other grants. The most exciting part is that we are just beginning to see the vision and possibilities in store for us as we help lead not only Porter County but the region as well. We will do this with proper planning and by creating an environment that will help create jobs and stabilize the area's economic situation. Personally I have been told over and over again by people from all sides how exciting it is to see these wonderful things taking place.

The most exciting part of all of this is that we are just beginning to see our Town's potential and I have been humbled and have considered it an honor to be a part of it.

Having said that, I am the first to realize that my leadership style this past year has at times been very abrasive. My wife once publically referred to me as not a "please and thank you person." I realize that at times I have not been publically responsive to public inquiries and have not treated some residents properly. For this I am very sorry. There is no excuse for my behavior. It is not becoming of a public official, nor is it the actions of a Christian.

I look forward to serving on the Redevelopment Commission this coming year, however due to health reasons and time restraints; I am not a candidate for commission president for 2011.

Thank you,

K. Bruce Snyder