

HIGHLAND REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

MINUTES PLENARY MEETING

Monday March 11, 2024

6:00 P.M.

Roll Call:

Commissioner – George Georgeff- President
Commissioner – Doug Turich – Vice-President
Commissioner – Alex Robertson - Secretary
Commissioner - Tom Black
Commissioner – Phil Scheeringa
Commissioner – Patrick Krull (non-voting) not present

Other Officials present: Attorney John Reed, Fire Chief Pipta, Former Redev. Commissioner Huerta

Approval of Minutes: Approved minutes of February 26, 2024

Public Comments: none

New Business: N.W.I. Parkinsons – Commercial Grant Application, Mr. Don Nagdeman, introduced himself as Vice President and noted that Elizabeth Woodbury, CEO and owner was also present. He explained that they have a 2-story building at 2927 Jewett Ave., that was purchased in 2017 and operating there since 2014. They have been growing, we have a wheelchair ramp that gets us to the main floor, we are ADA approved there. However, we want to be able to use the second floor, with a 3-person light weight (750 pounds) lift. It will take a wheelchair and 2 other persons, so a 3-person lift. We had an architect come in a give us full specs. We need to get people up to the second floor, because we are expanding our activities. So we would like to have the program help us fund it. The organization started in 2004 in Dyer moved it to Schererville, then bought this building in 2014 and have been a 501c(3) since 2012. Daily we talk to anywhere from 50 to 100 people, and we serviced about 1,200 people, that have Parkinsons Disease. We have 2 neurologists, on our board, Dr. Polon and Dr Sharif, both well known in the area, they are fully behind what we do, we have 13 board members. We are seeking help to get the elevator (lift) built. He introduced Cy Huerta, (former Redevelopment Commissioner) who then spoke. Last May my Brenda, was diagnosed with Parkinsons in additions to her multiple sclerosis, and we got involved with the organization last August. Brenda spends about 3 days a week over there. President Georgeff asked how many Highland residents do you see. Mr. Nagdeman, stated that they comprise the majority of their patients. Commissioner Scheeringa asked about how many clients overall. Mr. Nagdeman, stated they have 5 days' worth of classes during the week. This morning, we had 18 in a full body work out, we had 16 in the cardio drumming class and 11 in the following class, tomorrow we have a yoga class with 12-14 people. Wednesday, we have dance for Parkinsons, different participants in each. Its open to anyone who has Parkinsons their care givers, as long as we can fit them. Upstairs we want to expand that, since are getting too big, the purpose of getting the elevator. There is also a boutique on the second floor, which all of those funds go back into the Parkinsons, we do not take a nickel from that. We are the only operation in the United States that does that, everyone else seeks to make a profit, we seek to put it back in. We would like to get this done in June. A caregiver spoke on behalf of the organization, a patient was with her and explained how it would be helpful to use the additional rooms.

Old Business: Discussion Canvas – 2 Benches for Downtown - commitment partner with Park Dept. Director Becerra explained that Park Director Brown approached Redevelopment to purchase 2 benches. For every bench purchased one is donated free. A total of 5 items must be purchased for this special offer, which ends in June. Commissioner Robertson and I met with Alex. The benches are made of wood

turbines, instead of ending up in a landfill. The 2 we are looking at are the Mimi classic benches with QR codes, that can have a message, we would be in control of what information is on there, could have like events information. Park Director Brown, stated that they would do the order, they would just ask to have an appropriation transfer to the park dept. for whatever they purchase. We cant get the match unless we order 5. Commissioner Scheeringa, made a motion to buy the benches to accommodate the matching grant with the park dept. Supported by commissioner Robertson. Attorney, said make sure we are starting a transfer from RDC (Redevelopment) to the Park Dept. for \$8,300 dollars. Passes 5 to 0.

Communications: Job vacancy discussion, Director Becerra stated that we have had a vacancy since the end of November. I will be revising the job description and bring to the commission for review and then get it posted.

Action to Pay Accounts Payable Vouchers motioned by Commissioner Scheeringa, supported by Commissioner Black. Passed 5 to 0

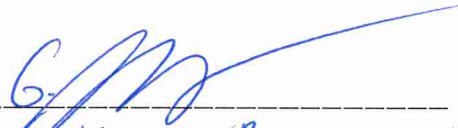
Payroll	\$ 11,555.42
TOTAL	\$ 11,555.42

Business from the Commissioners: none

Meeting adjourned at 6:18

4-8-24 Approved 3 to 0

Highland Redevelopment Commission



Title Vice President

4-8-2024

Attest

Title



Title