



Rochester City Council

Community Development Committee

DRAFT

MEETING MINUTES

James Gray, Chairperson
Elaine Lauterborn, Vice-Chair
Sandra Keans
Jake Collins
Donna Bogan

Meeting Date:	September 25, 2014	
Members Present:	Councilor Gray Councilor Lauterborn Councilor Keans Councilor Bogan	Members Absent: Councilor Collins
Staff:	Karen Pollard – Economic Development Manager	
Guests:	Tom Kaczynski, came at 6:55 PM and remained after meeting concluded.	

Councilor Gray called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. **Motion was made to approve the August 28, 2014 Community Development Committee minutes by Councilor Keans and seconded by Councilor Lauterborn, minutes were approved unanimously.**

Public Input	No public input.
---------------------	------------------

RSA 79E – Community Tax Relief Incentive	<p>Discussion was held regarding an email from Representative Beaudoin and his opposition to the RSA 79-E Community Revitalization Tax Relief Incentive program. Councilor Gray spoke about the community benefits that the program offers. Forgiving the taxes for a number of years on the increased valuation resulting from the renovation is well worth the money because the incentives entice investment in the RSA 79-E zone. There was unanimous agreement by the committee that participation by the City in this program is worthwhile.</p> <p>There was a question whether or not RSA 79-E can be retroactively applied on completed projects Economic Development Manager, Karen Pollard confirmed that in Attorney Wensley's opinion, projects cannot be considered retroactively. Ms. Pollard also stated that the City has not approved any retroactive projects.</p>
RSA 79E – Community Tax Relief Incentive Application Review for 2 – 6 North Main	<p>Discussion occurred regarding the 2 – 6 North Main commercial/affordable housing residential property to address the sprinkler system along with the scope of work going forward for consideration. The application was revised on page 2 to incorporate the feedback from Tom Mullin, the Assessor.</p> <p>Although the application would qualify for 15 years of tax relief the committee members believed that granting the basic 5 years of relief plus only one of the additional categories (4 years), for a total of 9 years, was warranted.</p> <p>The committee is recommending the application to move forward.</p> <p>Motion was made by Councilor Lauterborn to vote to forward the 2 – 6 North Main Application to Finance Department for review City Council with a recommendation of the 9 of years of tax relief to be determined at City Council. Motion was seconded by Councilor Keans and carried unanimously.</p>
Discussion about 79E Boundaries	<p>Discussion took place for expanding the RSA 79E boundaries, which explored the need to address distressed commercial and residential neighborhoods and provide an incentive for investment and broad community benefit. Councilor Gray asked for clarification on the processes for expanding RSA 79E and historic district boundaries.</p>

	Expanding the RSA 79E Boundary was retained in the Committee for additional action.
Poet Laureate Program	<p>The Poet Laureate program was discussed, the role and the expectations, and the decision making process of selecting a candidate was reviewed. Councilor Lauterborn will bring the recommendations to the Arts and Culture Commission.</p> <p>Councilor Gary made a motion to recommend that Mayor Jean, form an Ad Hoc committee comprised of 5 members, including 3 representatives from the Arts & Culture Commission, 1 representative from the Library staff or Board of Directors and the current Poet Laureate. The purpose of the committee is to develop the criteria for the Poet Laureate, decide on the process to nominate and to choose the new Poet Laureate. A Motion was seconded by Councilor Keans and carried unanimously.</p>
Community Development	<p>Councilor Gray requested that the following remain on the agenda forward until resolved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 Year Plan • CDBG Projects for 15 – 16
Review of Nuisance Ordinance	The review of the Nuisance Ordinance was deferred to the Ward 2 meeting.
NEXT MEETING	<p>October 23, 2014 at 6pm in the Conference Room at City Hall.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and discussion with Planner Michelle Mears to consult on the Historic District boundaries • Review the Map to 79E boundaries

**Motion to adjourn made by Councilor Lauterborn and seconded by Councilor Bogan.
The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 pm.**