



East Providence Waterfront Special Development District Commission

Meeting Minutes of May 4, 2011

Attendees: William Fazioli, Vice Chairman
Bruce Chick
John Gregory
Steven Hardcastle
Jonathan Killian
Luis Torrado

Consultants: Sara Bradford, Landscape Architect

Staff: Jeanne Boyle, Executive Director
Robin Main, Counsel
Roberta Groch, AICP- Planner

The meeting was called to order at 6:37PM.

1. Vice Chairman's Opening Remarks

Mr. Fazioli welcomed the Interim City Manager, Orlando A. Andreoni, to the Commission. Mr. Fazioli stated that he and Ms. Boyle made a presentation to the City Council recently and that they have been meeting with the Mayor and City Manager on several project as well.

2. Approval of Minutes

VOTE: A motion was made to approve the minutes of the December 1, 2010 meeting, with corrections. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved without discussion.

3. New Business

There was no new business.

4. Continued Business

A. Watchemoket Cove Pump Station

Mr. Jim Mitchell, Project Engineer for AECOM, the design/build company that is constructing the new pump station at Watchemoket Cove, updated the Commission on the progress, specifically AECOM's need to cut down most of the trees on the Veteran's Memorial Parkway side of the site prior to a meeting with the Commission. Mr. Torrado recused himself from the discussion.

Mr. Mitchell stated that more trees were removed at the site than was originally planned for site mobilization due to the necessity of piles for the building foundation. Everything else about the building will be the same as was approved by the Design Review Committee (DRC). Mr. Mitchell stated that the Scenic Roadways Board does not need to review the project again. Diane Soule, the project landscape architect, will provide a revised landscape plan to the DRC and Ms. Bradford. Ms. Bradford requested that there is an existing tree in the staging area that should have protection: Mr. Mitchell agreed.

VOTE: A motion was made to refer the revised landscape plan for the site to the DRC for approval: the motion was seconded and approved unanimously, without discussion.

B. Small Business Administration (SBA) Green Loan Program

Mr. Killian gave a brief update on the status of the SBA Loan program. The Commission had received approval from SBA to begin making loans. The SBA Sub-committee recently met and discussed public outreach, including a press release and a brochure. The Commission agreed that the first loans must be made to credit-worthy businesses that are large enough to be able to pay the loan back.

VOTE: A motion was made to increase the amount available for individual loans from \$25,000 to \$50,000, with the total amount of non-reimbursed SBA loans not to exceed fifty percent of available Waterfront Commission funds: the motion was seconded and approved unanimously, without discussion.

Mr. Andreoni excused himself from the meeting.

5. Reports from Subcommittees

There were no reports from subcommittees.

6. Miscellaneous Other Business

There was no miscellaneous other business.

7. Staff Reports

A. General Counsel's Report

Ms. Main gave a status update on TLA/Pond View. The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) issued a 1,500 tons/day license to TLA/Pond View, with numerous conditions. The City will appeal the license and is looking at other ways of dealing with Pond View. The 500-ton/day license hearing starts on Monday: the Attorney General's office is involved in this. Both RIDEM and Pond View have moved to dismiss this case. Mr. Gregory asked about the costs that the Commission has born for this issue: staff will add another chart to the summary of Commission finances that shows the Waterfront Commission funds that have been spent.

B. Executives Director's Report

Ms. Boyle updated the Commission on several issues, including: a tentative date for the Tockwotton groundbreaking in May 2011; the start of construction of the Dexter Road Connector portion of Waterfront Drive in the summer; the issuance of building permits for Phase II of the Aspen Aerogels expansion; phragmites removal and stormwater improvements at Squatum Woods by Village on the Waterfront; and the issuance of a Coastal Resource Management Council (CRMC) permit for Village on the Waterfront for access to the site for clean-up activities. Staff will issue a press release regarding the recent activity in the District. Staff will also send members an update on Commission finances via e-mail.

8. Communication and Correspondence

There was nothing to report.

9. Executive Session

VOTE: A motion was made to enter into Executive Session: the motion was seconded and unanimously approved, without discussion.

VOTE: A motion was made to exit Executive Session at 8:19PM.

Mr. Fazioli reported that the order of the items on the Executive Session agenda was changed, with the third agenda item discussed first. There was discussion on three agenda items with two votes taken: one regarding the submission of an application for federal funds and one regarding the Waterfront Commission's next steps regarding the RIDEM issuance of a 1,500 tons/day for TLA/Pond View.

Mr. Gregory recused himself and left the meeting during after the reordered first agenda item of the session.

10. Announcements

There were no announcements.

11. Adjournment

VOTE: A motion was made to adjourn the meeting: the motion was seconded and unanimously approved without discussion.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20PM.

Respectfully submitted,

JEANNE M. BOYLE
Executive Director

JMB/RG