

**MINUTES OF RAVENNA CITY COUNCIL COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
September 10, 2012**

The Meeting of the Ravenna City Community & Economic Development Committee was called to order by Chairman Frank Seman at 5:00 P.M. Present were: Bruce Ribelin, Fred Berry, Sharon Spencer, Jack Ferguson and Fran Ricciardi. Also attending the meeting were Finance Director, Kim Cecora and City Engineer, Bob Finney. Also in attendance were Jennifer King representing Neighborhood Development Services; Donna Swigart of 528 East Riddle Avenue, Ravenna and Nick Dudek of 328 North Prospect Street, Ravenna.

Mr. Seman said the first item on the agenda is the acceptance and appropriating of the 2012 CHIP grant.

Ms. King explained that the City was awarded the 2012 Community Home Improvement Program grant. This is to accept and appropriate that budget. They plan to do ten units out of the full home owner occupied rehab. and five units of home repair. It is a citywide program. The matching funds are \$60,000.00 from the home revolving loan funds and \$4,000.00 comes out of the 2012 Formula for fair housing. This is the same program they've had for several years. After the environmental review, they will probably start early 2013 and the units will need to be complete by October 31, 2014.

Mr. Ricciardi asked if they already have units in mind or if they have to find those.

Ms. King said they have to apply. They can call their office to fill out an application. It's on a first come/first serve basis.

There being no further questions or comments, it was decided by those present that a tracking sheet would be submitted for Finance Committee approval.

Mr. Seman noted the next item is the Formula Grant.

Ms. King said this is the 2012 Community Development Block Grant. It's the standard Formula allocation. It was \$53,000.00 this year. They put \$43,000.00 into street paving, 200 linear feet of West Highland, right by the park. Mr. Finney has matched that with \$7,000.00 of the street funds. The other \$10,000.00 is \$4,000.00 for fair housing and \$6,000.00 for general administration.

Mr. Seman said they've been doing this routinely. They have been using the fund for sidewalks and street repairs.

Ms. King said this one has a year deadline. It must be used by the end of 2013.

There being no further questions or comments, it was decided by those present that a tracking sheet would be submitted for Finance Committee approval.

Mr. Seman said the next item is the administration agreement.

Ms. King said this is just a housekeeping issue. It's the administration agreement for the 2012 Formula Grant so they can bill the City when they move forward with the project.

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There being no further questions or comments, it was decided by those present that a tracking sheet would be submitted for Finance Committee approval.

Mr. Seman said the next item for discussion is a downtown revitalization grant. It's just in its very formative stages. They think that the downtown money is eventually going to disappear at the State level. The powers that be down there don't believe they get enough bang for their buck in rehabbing downtowns. He thinks they are thinking in terms of jobs created. They are looking at the guidelines and this could be the last money available. It's a \$250,000.00 grant. What they were looking at was the Phoenix Building. The Coleman Foundation is working on getting a part of that project going. The huge grant they applied for and based everything they were going to do on, did not get awarded. They are out looking for other funding. They are going to go ahead with the funds that they have. The last he heard, they had in the neighborhood of \$100,000.00. Keep in mind, they need an elevator in that building and an elevator is \$200,000.00. He's not sure exactly what their total plan is and it's still very skeletal. It seems to him they were going to piece meal it as the funds came in. The only thing that bothers him is they are going to leave the façade for last. The façade is kind of important as far as seeing an impact to the City. In talking with Ms. Macomber about this; what they are asking for is just going to be for the mayor to apply for this grant in the event they decide to go through with it after checking everything out.

Mr. Ricciardi asked if it's a general grant that is going to be offered to everyone downtown; is it specifically earmarked for any specific project.

Mr. Seman said that it's a competitive grant. He and Ms. Macomber talked about this quite a bit and it's in a very embryonic stage. It's very flexible and they will be meeting in the next week or two with someone from Coleman to see where they are with the project.

There being no further business before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 5:15 P.M.

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council

Frank Seman, Chairman
Community & Economic Development Committee