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Redevelopment Board Minutes 09/12/2011

Minutes of Monday, September 12, 2011, 7:00pm
Arlington Redevelopment Board
2nd Floor Conference Room, Town Hall Annex
Approved 9/26/11

Present: ~Michael Cayer, Ted Fields, Bruce Fitzsimmons (Chairman), Christine Scypinski.

Also present: ~Laura Wiener (for the last portion of the meeting)

Mr. Fitzsimmons called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The Petitioner for the first order of business to re-open the Special Permit request by CVS, 25 Massachusetts Ave., awning signs, requested that their petition be continued to September 26th at 7:00pm. Mr. Fields made a motion to continue which was seconded by Mr. Cayer and all voted in favor.

TOWN DAY

Mr. Fitzsimmons explained the Board's role at the Planning Department booth at Town Day. The main goal is to gain citizens input on the upcoming Master Plan process. By talking with citizens the hope is to gain an understanding of how much education about the process may be needed and how we can communicate effectively with the community using social media and other tools. Ms. Kowalski has asked that the Board members sign up for times to help at the booth. Members committed to the following times:

10-11 Ms Scypinski

11-12 Mr. Cayer

1-2 Mr. Fields

2-3 Mr. Fitzsimmons

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Fields then moved to approve the meeting minutes of June 13, 2011 as amended, Ms. Scypinski seconded and all voted in favor with Mr. Cayer abstaining due to his absence at that meeting.

Mr. Cayer then moved to approve the meeting minutes of June 20, 2011 as amended, Mr. Fields seconded and all voted in favor.

Ms. Scypinski then moved to approve the meeting minutes of June 27, 2011 as amended, Mr. Fields seconded and all voted in favor.

Meeting minutes of July 7, 2011 were tabled due to questions the Board raised concerning the need to attach each members written comments to the minutes instead of the summary paragraphs.

Mr. Fields then moved to approve the meeting minutes of August 15, 2011 as amended, Mr. Cayer seconded and all voted in favor.

Mr. Fields then moved to approve the meeting minutes of September 6, 2011 as amended, Ms. Scypinski seconded and all voted in favor.

SYMMEs

Mr. Fitzsimmons gave an update on Symmes. Upton and Partners and JAG have met three times to discuss the idea of working together with both sides describing the meetings as productive. A timeframe for a decision has not been set and depends on the two parties. The ARB supports this process. Another meeting is to take place in the next few weeks. At some point we expect the developers to report back to us, first through an informal ad hoc committee of Town officials and then in a public presentation.

BethAnn Friedman of Hazel Terrace who is also a SNAC member asked if we could respond to the open meeting complaint that was filed by an Arlington resident and state when we could make public the Board of Selectmen's executive session discussion concerning Timber Ridge and Beacon Communities. Mr. Fitzsimmons stated that if it has been 2 years it may be possible to make them public however there could conceivably be a reason to keep them confidential if material could impact our current discussions. He stated that they will need to be looked at carefully. Ms. Friedman requested that we provide our understanding of when they could be made public at our next meeting.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES GRANT LETTER OF SUPPORT

Mr. Fitzsimmons explained that the Planning Department is looking for our support of their application for this grant which will help them to conduct visioning and community outreach for the Master Plan process. Laura Wiener joined the meeting at this opportune time, just after presenting the same request for support to the Board of Selectman. She explained that the 2-page document the Board received, are the first 2 pages of the application narrative and that the Planning Department is seeking a Letter of Support from the ARB to submit with the application. The Planning Department is requesting \$60,000 of grant funding. The Board agreed that the Chair could work with Ms. Wiener to prepare a letter on behalf of the ARB.

Mr. Fields and Ms. Wiener explained the application of Form Based Codes to the Board and Mr. Fields discussed Waltham's recent Master Plan Process and their total cost.

On a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Kowalski
Secretary ex Officio