REGULAR MEETING OF THE REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY CALIFORNIA

October 19, 2009
7:00 p.m.

Call to Order & Roll Call

The meeting of the Agency was called to order at 7:06 p.m.

Present: Micheál O'Leary, Agency Chair
D. Scott Malsin, Agency Vice Chair
Christopher Armenta, Agency Member
Gary Silbiger, Agency Member
Andrew Weissman, Agency Member

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Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance

The Invocation was led by Mark Scott, Executive Director and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ken Kaufman.

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Public Comment for Items NOT On the Agenda

Matthew Hetz, representing Culver City Symphony Orchestra, announced a concert on October 24, 2009 at Veterans Memorial Auditorium; and, thanked Susan Obrow, Cultural Affairs Division for encouraging the symphony to pursue a grant from the Los Angeles County Arts Commission, which they received.

Assistant Fire Chief, Chris Sellers provided fliers for an H1N1 and seasonal flu vaccination clinic on October 23, 2009 at Veterans Memorial Auditorium, and he noted that there were other dates and locations listed on the fliers and on the website.

Richard Rownak expressed concern regarding alleged contradictions with documents received from the City regarding the business license for Culver City Unfinished Furniture and deferments granted to them; he pointed out that the agreement was signed with the wrong person as Culver City Furniture is not the property owner; and he requested that the City rescind the amnesty or hear the matter officially.

Mr. Igale Shadian discussed an issue with a parking ticket.

Public Comment for Items NOT On the Agenda
(Continued)

Martin Cole, City Clerk/Assistant City Manager, offered to speak with Mr. Shadian and try to address his issues.

Meghan Sahli-Wells thanked Agency Members for attending the Mark Ridley Thomas Town Hall meeting regarding PXP and standing up for the rights of Culver City residents.

Egon Monostory felt all revenue sources should be collected before taxes are raised; he questioned how some businesses were able to operate without paying their license fees; and expressed concerns with the business license for Agency General Counsel Murray Kane.

Alice Prasad, Associate Analyst, read a written comments submitted by:

Susan Deen, Fiesta La Ballona Committee

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Public Comment for Items On the Agenda

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Consent Calendar

MOVED BY MEMBER MALSIN, SECONDED BY MEMBER ARMENTA, AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED THAT THE REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY APPROVE ITEMS C-1 THROUGH C-3.

Item C-1

Secretary's Report

THAT THE REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY APPROVE THE REPORT OF THE SECRETARY.

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Item C-2

Meeting Minutes

THAT THE REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY APPROVE THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 21, 2009.

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Item C-3

Cash Disbursements

THAT THE REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY APPROVE CASH DISBURSEMENTS FROM SEPTEMBER 19, 2009 THRU OCTOBER 2, 2009.

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ACTION ITEMS

Item A-1

Finding of Conformity to the Redevelopment Plan for a Project Proposed for 11957 West Washington Boulevard

John Lynch felt it important that Culver City take the concerns of Los Angeles residents regarding traffic and building heights and codes into consideration.

Chair O'Leary received clarification that notification went to Culver City and Los Angeles residents within a certain radius.

Michael Shaffei indicated that he lived in Mar Vista on the border of Culver City; he expressed concerns with profound impacts to his neighborhood in terms of density and traffic; he discussed the process for determining traffic impacts; CEQA requirements; causal relationships between proximity to traffic and health issues; overtaxed utilities; piecemeal construction permitting; he discussed outstanding concerns of his neighborhood; and he asked for neighborhood polling and help from the City in resolving their concerns.

Discussion between the Agency and staff included: notification procedures; when the issue would be discussed again; concern with lack of policy regarding development and public participation; concern that the public be involved early; a suggestion to indicate the height of the building in the description up front; clarification that parking provided is more than the code requires; creating a pedestrian friendly atmosphere; acknowledgement that input from the Council is incorporated in the requirements; whether the project conforms to the Redevelopment plan; public input and participation; different recollections of the previous meeting and whether the item would return to the Council; and agreement to review the tape to clarify the intent of the Council.

Item A-1
(Continued)

MOVED BY MEMBER WEISSMAN, SECONDED BY MEMBER MALSIN, AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED THAT THE REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY BOARD: ADOPT A MOTION FINDING THAT THE DEVELOPMENT PROPOSED FOR 11957 WEST WASHINGTON BOULEVARD, BE ADOPTED AS APPROVED BY THE CULVER CITY PLANNING COMMISSION, CONFORMS WITH THE REDEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE CULVER CITY REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT.

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JOINT ITEMS

Item J-1

A Presentation by the City Manager Related to a Budget Review for Fiscal Year 2009/2010 – Program by Program Workplan Review

Mark Scott, Executive Director, provided a summary of the material of record.

At this time, department presentations commenced:

City Manager's Office

Martin Cole, City Clerk/Assistant City Manager, provided a summary of the material of record for the City Manager's office.

Discussion ensued between staff and the Agency included: the feasibility of contracting out the City Manager position; issues with Time Warner Cable, and, the possibility of contracting out cable company functions; lobbyists and encouragement to the Council to do more legislative work; and agenda management.

City Clerk's Office

Martin Cole, City Clerk/Assistant City Manager, provided a summary of the material of record for the City Clerk's office.

Discussion ensued between staff and the Agency regarding the pros and cons of contracting with the County for election services.

Item J-1
(Continued)

Information Technology

John Richo, Director of Information Technology, provided a presentation on the Information Technology Department.

Discussion between staff and the Agency included: consolidating services; virtual desktops; and replacement of Permits Plus.

Human Resources

Serena Wright, Director of Human Resources, discussed cost saving measures and efficiency opportunities.

Discussion ensued between staff and the Agency included: assisting smaller cities with projects; risk management; creating a Culver City store; and utilizing volunteers; and a suggestion to put all budget information on the website; and next steps in the process.

City Attorney's Office

Carol Schwab, City Attorney, provided a presentation on the City Attorney's office.

Discussion ensued between staff and the Agency included: clarification on in-house services versus services that are contracted out; the City Attorney reserve program; a request for a breakdown of money spent on outside attorneys and in what areas; and whether a City Attorney's office representative is necessary at all Committee and Commission meetings.

Finance Department

Jeff Muir, Director of Finance, presented a summary of suggested cost savings and efficiencies from the Finance Department.

Discussion ensued between staff and the Agency included: the time to implement cost savings items; job losses; exploring the idea of combining efforts with other cities; joint contracts among the Westside cities; concern with the loss of personal services; consolidation of different departments that handle billing and collections; centralizing General Services; and in-house credit card services.

Item J-1
(Continued)

Community Development Department

Sol Blumenfeld, Assistant Executive Director, provided a summary of recommendations for service reductions or revenue enhancements for the Community Services Department.

Discussion ensued between Staff and the Agency Council regarding enhancing property reports.

Fire Department

Fire Chief, Jeff Eastman, presented a summary of options to achieve cost savings and efficiencies in the department.

Discussion ensued between staff and the Agency Council included: a suggestion to prioritize item 10; the importance of cost recovery; the ambulance operator program; costs for EMT transport; potential revenue and possible legal issues from selling equipment as opposed to donating it; concerns with maintaining accreditation; consolidation of workload in administrative functions; charging to provide training to other cities; consolidation of resources; assessment districts and parcel taxes; the use of private ambulance services in the City; referral fees; use of the lookout position on strike teams; and reimbursement for depreciation of vehicles with use.

Mark Scott, Executive Director, suggested continuing the remainder of the department presentations at the next City Council meeting. The Agency Council concurred with the suggestion.

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Public Comment for Items NOT On the Agenda

None.

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Receipt of Correspondence

MOVED BY MEMBER MALSIN, SECONDED BY MEMBER WEISSMAN, AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO RECEIVE AND FILE CORRESPONDENCE.

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Items from Staff

None.

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Items from the Agency

Items from Member Malsin

- Commended the project completed at Fox Hills Park on October 17, 2009.

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Adjournment

There being no further business, at 10:51 p.m., the Agency adjourned its meeting to an Adjourned Regular meeting on Monday, October 26, 2009.

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Alice Prasad
SECRETARY of the City of Culver City Redevelopment Agency, California

APPROVED

Micheál O'Leary
CHAIRPERSON of the Redevelopment Agency, City of Culver City, California