

Central State Hospital Local Redevelopment Authority
Central State Hospital Powell Building Conference Room
July 17, 2013
5:00 PM

The Central State Hospital Local Redevelopment Authority met in regular session on July 17, 2013 in the Powel Building Conference Room with Chairperson Quay Fuller presiding.

Members of the authority present were Russ Walden, George Martinez, John Ferguson, Quay Fuller, Dudley Rowe, Nolan Stephens and Johnny Grant. Members absent were Bruce Vaughn and Stanley Preczewski.

Chairman Fuller called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM. The Recording Secretary called roll and a quorum of members of the Authority was declared present.

Mrs. Fuller welcomed everyone to the meeting and made opening comments acknowledging the fact that the committee had been established for one year. She stated that they had challenges but were meeting their challenges.

Motion Mr. Rowe, second Dr. Ferguson to adopt the June meeting minutes as official.

On vote aye: Walden, Martinez, Ferguson, Fuller, Rowe, and Stephens. The motion carried and the minutes were adopted.

Chairman Fuller asked if there was a need to go into executive session. No one indicated a need for a closed session.

Chairman Fuller recognized Mike Couch for the Executive Director's Report.

Mr. Couch asked that the members review the June work session minutes and advise him of any changes.

Mr. Couch stated that Mayor Bentley was on his way to the meeting to give a legislative update.

Mr. Couch stated the governor and the state properties commission approved the three pending leases and they should be ready by the end of the month.

Mr. Couch discussed a meeting with Sheppard Hospice Care stating that Mr. Sheppard wanted to use the Howell Building for a hospice care facility and nursing home and possibly a rehab facility. Dr. Martinez stated that they had looked at

different locations. He stated that he was not aware of a Hospice inpatient facility locally. He discussed the state of the Howell building and the fact that it was in fairly good shape and would not require much to turn it around.

Mr. Couch asked to be authorized to begin negotiations on the property.

Motion Mr. Rowe, second Dr. Martinez to authorize the Executive Director to start negotiations with Sheppard Hospice Care for the development of a Hospice care facility on state property.

On vote aye: Walden, Martinez, Ferguson, Fuller, Rowe and Stephens. The motion carried.

Mayor Richard Bentley was recognized and gave an update on the legislative initiative stating that they needed a way to gain access and take control of the buildings at Central State. He stated it was very difficult if not impossible for the authority to do what it was supposed to do and that was to recruit potential occupants to the buildings. He stated that they have asked Troutman and Sanders to draft language for legislation through an omnibus bill that would allow them to bypass the legislative process that is required now. They have developed a time line plan. Currently, the property had to be surplussed; they were asking that all of the 2,000 acres be surplussed. This would allow them to work directly with the state properties commission and would allow them to sell the property or have long term agreements. He discussed amending the language of house bill 495. They should have the legislation ready by September for the state legislature in January.

There was a discussion about the state officials that had visited the Central State Hospital Campus and the plans to invite others to visit.

Mr. Grant came into the meeting at 5:20 and was marked present.

Mike Couch recognized Brenda Josey who stated that they all had a copy of the monthly expenditures and the annual budget. She stated that they were under budget. Mr. Couch discussed budget line items and the need to have a full time staff.

Mr. Couch gave an update on the GED program stating that there were 68 participants and soon they were expecting to graduate 42 students.

Mr. Couch gave an update on the CAPS conference being held in Milledgeville. Mr. Rowe discussed the importance of the program and the fact that it was a solution to so many issues. He thanked Dr. Davis and Dr. Nelson and commended them for what they were doing.

David Sinclair gave an update on the solar program. He stated that Georgia Power had increased their solar allocation by 300 megawatts; this was confirmation that solar was a positive. Mr. Sinclair continued stating that Solar Zones, LLC would be setting up in the near future to start assembling panels and then would be making application to Georgia Power for allocations.

Mr. Sinclair stated that he had nothing new to report on waste to energy.

Mr. Sinclair discussed the DEA secure storage facility. He stated that they were working on the RFI document from the Department of Justice and a report would be made in the near future.

There was a discussion about the output of the solar panels. Mr. Rowe suggested that it would be helpful to have a timeline and other details to present to the governor.

Mr. Couch gave an update on the Shaw Building initiative.

County Commissioner Henry Craig gave an update on the Land Bank initiative. He stated that it was moving along slowly. Georgia College had indicated an interest in using the Land Bank as a mechanism to grant assistance to develop and fund strategies for the future. He stated that there was a Land Bank conference at the end of the month that the city and county planned to attend. He further stated that it was a slow and methodical process if done right and the city and county would get together hopefully in the fall and make another step forward.

Mr. Couch gave an update on social media. He stated that they continued to update face book and the website. He had met with Tommy at Digital Bridges to discuss expanding the website.

Mr. Couch discussed the progress that had been made over the past year and thanked everyone for their support including the board. He stated that he looked forward to the future. He thanked Richard Brookins for volunteering.

Mrs. Fuller asked if anyone had comments. Mr. Rowe thanked Mike Couch for his work over the past year.

Motion Mr. Grant, second Dr. Martinez to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:37 PM.

Quay Fuller, Chair

ATTEST:

Bo Danuser
Recording Secretary