

STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF FORT BEND

CITY OF RICHMOND

The Development Corporation of Richmond convened in a regular meeting open to the public and pursuant to notice thereof duly given in accordance with Section 51.96, Development Corporation Act, Vernon's Texas Codes, in Richmond City Hall Annex within said City on March 3, 2015 at 4:30 p.m. Directors in attendance included the following:

President, Evalyn W. Moore Absent	Vice President, Joe Bonham
Dave Scott	Glen Gilmore
Secretary, Carl Drozd	Treasurer, Carlos Garcia – Late
Jesse Torres - Late	Rob Tobias, Executive Director

Vice President Joe Bonham opened the meeting at 4:30 and announced that he would be the acting chair due to Mayor Moore testifying in Austin. Vice President Bonham asked for any public comments, there were no comments; therefore the public comments were closed.

Vice President Bonham asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the February 3, 2015 regular meeting. Director Gilmore made a motion to approve the minutes and Director Scott seconded. All votes were "Aye" for approval of the minutes for February 3, 2015.

Vice President Bonham asked for a review of the Financial Reports through February 28, 2015. Director Bonham asked the percentage of the year; Finance Director Susan Lang reported it reflected 5/12ths or 42% of the year. It was noted that contract services are loaded at the beginning of the year. There being no further questions or comments regarding the financial reports, they were accepted and no action was required.

The next agenda item to review, discuss and consider a project brought before the board by Reverend Curtis Ray Lucas of the Mount Carmel Baptist Church, Richmond, Texas. Reverend Lucas gave a brief history of the church being 150 years old and it being his twenty-third year at Mt. Carmel. Lucas referenced some of the changes that have improved over the years such as the removal of the 8 foot barbed wire fence around the property and planting of trees. Lucas applauded the City of Richmond for helping the citizens of North Richmond tear down old homes and plant grass, for putting the infrastructure in for new schools. He feels they have earned their way in the community by making an impact in their community. They feel they are truly invested in what they are doing. With the grants of \$5 million they have trained 3000 people and their parents transforming the community and cooperation of the school district and the City of Richmond we essentially buried Mud Alley. The next speaker to be introduced was Mr. Henry Castleberry. Mr. Castleberry expressed his excitement for being at the meeting and also being a part of what is going on with Mount Carmel Baptist Church. Mount Carmel would like to receive funds from the Development Corporation of Richmond to conduct a feasibility study and work with an architect for the possibility of building a multipurpose culture center, museum, continuing education and daycare facility. They are proposing 8700 square feet and are conservative when they say they can bring 1500-2000 people to gospel singing events into the city. The initial amount the church is asking for from the Development Corporation is \$250,000. There were numerous questions from the board; Gilmore regarding Ferry Street, Bonham stated DCR is a different organization than the City of Richmond; Torres as to what kind of investment would the DCR receive on investment of \$250,000. There were questions regarding separation of church and state, who would own the facility and/or the daycare, and who would operate the facility. Economic Director, Rob Tobias stated it has been his experience that a non-profit has never been funded by a Development Corporation. Reverend Lucas stated there would be other partners that would provide matching funds but they had not submitted requests. They needed seed money first before they could make those requests. Director Garcia stated that he would need to see more documentation in order to support the project. Director Torres made the motion to table the item for further discussion, Director Scott seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous to table the agenda item regarding the Mount Carmel Project.

Vice President Bonham introduced Mr. Joseph Decker, with the University of Houston, Fort Bend County Small Business Development Center. Mr. Decker is Director of the Business Advisors and he gave a brief update of what has been going on in the area. The SBDC has assisted with \$18 million in loans for small business in the area with \$6 million of those funds being right here in the Richmond/Rosenberg area (\$2.5M/\$3.5M respectively). Mr. Decker told of an inspiring story regarding Frank's Nursery unsuccessfully attempting to get a loan but with their assistance received the loan, found out they were making an enormous profit. Mr. Decker introduced Jeff Linder and offered as well as encouraged everyone to use their services that may be wanting to relocate to the City of Richmond.

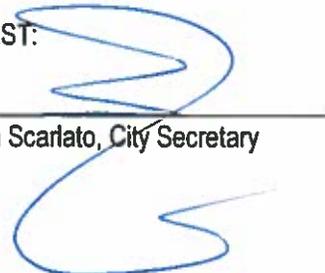
The final agenda item was the Executive Director report. Mr. Tobias provided a brief recap of the report and noted that Taco Bell was now open for business and Freddie's Frozen Custard has broken ground at the River Pointe Center.

There being no further business to come before the Development Corporation of Richmond, the meeting was adjourned at 5:37 p.m. Director Gilmore made the motion and Director Scott seconded.

APPROVED:


Evalyn W. Moore, President

ATTEST:



Laura Scarlato, City Secretary