



***KINGSOUTEL CROSSING CRA (KSC/CRA) ADVISORY BOARD
HYBRID VIRTUAL AND IN-PERSON MEETING
CITY HALL, OED SUITE 250, LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM
THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 2025 - 3:30 P.M.***

MEETING MINUTES

Location: The KSC/CRA Advisory Board meeting was held as a hybrid virtual and in-person meeting. The KSC/CRA Advisory Board Members met in person at City Hall, 117 West Duval Street, OED Suite 250, Large Conference Room.

KSC/CRA Advisory Board Members Present: Chair Russell Jackson, Vice Chair Bill Price, Vanessa Cullins Hopkins, Tony Robbins, and Davida Carter

KSC/CRA Advisory Board Members Absent: Palecia Crawford-Maddox

Staff Present: Karen Nasrallah, Redevelopment Manager; and Krista Fogarty, OED Staff

Representing the Office of General Counsel: Carla Lopera

Others Present: Nickie Chatman-Brown, Literacy Alliance of Northeast Florida; Marcus Haile, Literacy Alliance of Northeast Florida; Ernest J Smith III

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Jackson called the KingSoutel Crossing CRA Advisory Board Meeting to order at 3:32 p.m.

II. ACTION ITEMS

A MOTION WAS MADE BY BOARD MEMBER TONY ROBBINS TO APPROVE THE OCTOBER 31, 2024 MEETING MINUTES. BOARD MEMBER VANESSA CULLINS HOPKINS SECONDED THE MOTION. BOARD MEMBER VANESSA CULLINS HOPKINS RECOMMENDED A CHANGE TO THE MINUTES DUE TO A SCRIVENER'S ERROR. THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED (5-0).

III. GENERAL INFORMATION (out of order)

The Literacy Alliance of Northeast Florida representatives gave a presentation on the programs provided by their group and how that can be applied in the CRA area. Programs discussed include adult literacy, as well as other educational programs such as high school equivalency and GEDs. Two of the locations in the area where their services are offered are the Northside Church of Christ and the Brentwood Housing Authority.

Board Member Tony Robbins asked what the typical duration of the program is. The presenters explained that the program is flexible and there are both in-person and online options. They measure the progress in terms of hours and that varies depending on the individual.

Board Member Vanessa Cullins Hopkins asked if the program could expand to areas that are closer to the boundaries within the CRA, such as the Legends Center or the Bradham and Brooks Library, if there are enough people interested in the program.

Mr. Haile explained how the process of selecting sites for their services worked and expressed interest in finding some volunteers to go to the Legends Center.

Board Member Vanessa Cullins Hopkins asked for clarity that it would be on a case-by-case basis based on need for the area, and that to initiate this process it would start with a discussion with staff of the Literary Alliance.

Mr. Haile affirmed that this would be the correct process.

Vice Chair Bill Price asked if a firm could send employees who need assistance building their skills to work with the Literacy Alliance and pay for their time to be with them?

Mr. Haile stated that it would be fine to do that and commended Vice Chair Bill Price for thinking of paying an employee for attending their program, as that is an obstacle to many adult learners.

Board Member Davida Carter asked how to send volunteers to work with the Literacy Alliance.

Mr. Haile said that they have a volunteer coordinator who handles all of that, but he would be happy to help connect anyone to that person, if they have interested volunteers.

Chair Jackson had a question about getting the word out to kids and parents in the community who can take advantage of this program. And followed up with a question about the target age group.

Mr. Haile stated that they heavily rely on outreach events and that's the biggest way they can get the word out about the program. They've also been trying to let other non-profit organizations know about the programs, so they can make referrals to the program as well. The average age of students in the program are in their 30s, but they will take students who are at least 16 years old. They even have students as old as their 80s enrolled in the program.

Board Member Vanessa Cullins Hopkins asked if there were any bilingual services provided.

Mr. Haile said they do offer ESL classes, it's a relatively new service, but they have expanded over the years and have a few hundred ESL students now.

II. ACTION ITEMS (out of order)

Election of officers

A MOTION WAS MADE BY BOARD MEMBER VANESSA CULLINS HOPKINS TO ELECT BILL PRICE AS VICE CHAIR FOR THIS YEAR. BOARD MEMBER TONY ROBBINS SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED (5-0).

A MOTION WAS MADE BY BOARD MEMBER VANESSA CULLINS HOPKINS TO ELECT RUSSELL JACKSON AS CHAIR FOR THIS YEAR. BOARD MEMBER TONY ROBBINS SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED (5-0).

IV. NEW BUSINESS

V. OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Nasrallah gave a quick overview of the CRA Advisory Board and a summary of the ongoing New Kings Capital Improvements Plan. She went over the details of the most recent meeting with the consultants for the plan. The projects that would be funded are items 1, 2, 4 and 6. These items include two sidewalk improvement projects, landscaping improvements, and the New Kings Road and Moncrief Road roundabout project.

Chair Jackson asked who was responsible for the maintenance of the roundabout, would that be FDOT or the City? Ms. Nasrallah answered that it would be FDOT, since it's their road, and they are involved in the meetings.

Board Member Tony Robbins wanted to confirm that the south side of MLK Jr. Drive was within the boundaries of the CRA. Ms. Nasrallah answered in the affirmative.

Board Member Vanessa Cullins Hopkins asked if we knew what the Councilwoman's intentions are for presenting this to the community. Ms. Nasrallah stated that she is unaware of what her plans will be.

Vice Chair Bill Price asked what the duration of the contract was. Ms. Nasrallah said she didn't believe there was an end date, but if we need to extend it, we will extend it.

Chair Jackson asked if any of the projects will be done by the end of this year. Ms. Nasrallah said that some of the projects may be completed by the end of this year, but not all of them.

Board Member Tony Robbins wanted to know if the roundabout was only the funding for design or for all of it. Ms. Nasrallah confirmed that it was all of it, design and build.

Chair Jackson asked if there was any update to bringing sewer and water down to the end of I-295? Ms. Nasrallah stated that this board decided to defund that and re-allocate those funds to the New Kings Capital Improvements Plan.

Board Member Vanessa Cullins Hopkins asked for an update on 2024-535, which is an application the board recommended denial on in September. Ms. Nasrallah stated she has no update on the

application's deferral status, and she checks in on the application bi-weekly. Board Member Vanessa Cullins Hopkins further explained her concerns regarding the site, as they are currently using it for tractor trailer storage. Ms. Nasrallah explained the proper protocol for contacting Municipal Code Compliance.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ernest J. Smith III, made comments regarding the pending application 2024-535, as well as sidewalk improvements. He expressed interest in getting the councilwoman involved in the pending application. He had a question regarding the proposed sidewalk, wondering if there would be a bike lane included in the proposed project.

Chair Jackson asked Ms. Nasrallah to respond to the question regarding bike lanes. She said that this would not include bike lanes, which would be part of the pavement and not the sidewalks.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Jackson adjourned the KingSoutel Crossing Advisory Board meeting at approximately 4:25 p.m.

The written minutes for this meeting are only an overview of what was discussed. For verbatim comments of this meeting, an audio file of the meeting is available in its entirety and is available upon request. Please contact Karen Nasrallah at (904) 255-5449, or by email at karenn@coj.net.