

MINUTES

NEW ALBANY REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

The regular meeting of the New Albany Redevelopment Commission was held immediately following two public hearings on Tuesday, February 23, 2021 at 2:30 p.m., virtually, through Zoom.com.

Commission Members Present: Irving Joshua, President
Adam Dickey, Vice President
Terry Middleton, Secretary
Jason Applegate
Jennie Collier
Elaine Murphy, School Board Advisory Member

Commission Members Absent:

Staff Members Present: Josh Staten, Redevelopment Director
Jessica Campbell, Public Facilities Project Manager (PFPM)
Claire Johnson, Neighborhood Initiatives Coordinator (NIC)
Cyndi Krauss, Financial Compliance Manager (FCM)

Others Present: Trent Baker, TJB Consulting
Allie Bihl, CASA of Floyd County, Inc.
Gina Brown, Let Us Learn, Inc.
Liam Brown
Katie Davidson
Bradley Fair, Develop New Albany
Brian Forrest, Colonial Manor, LLC
Melissa Fry, Indiana University Southeast
Greg Goodnight, Connecting Strategies LLC
Angie Graf, Hope Southern Indiana
Beth Keeney, LifeSpring Inc.
Vera McGhee, YMCA of Greater Louisville – Floyd County SACC
Ramona Miller, LifeSpan Resources, Inc.
Linda Moeller, City Controller
Max Monohan, New Directions Housing Corporation
Leah Pezzarossi, Open Door Youth Services
John Riley, Maker 13 and the Maker Mobile Inc.
Linda Reynolds, Hope Southern Indiana
Todd Rush, AML Construction
Jill Saegesser, The Wheatley Group
Cheryl Schy, CASA of Floyd County, Inc.
David Snyder
April Starks, Olive Tree Resources, Inc.
Bob Stein, United Consulting
Katie Stein, Blessings in a Backpack – Floyd County Chapter
Daniel Suddeath, News and Tribune
Josh Turner, City Council District 5
Kathy Wilkerson, New Albany Parks and Recreation

The President called the meeting to order at 2:32 PM. Roll was called. All members were present.

The President opened the Public Hearing for the **Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21) One-Year Action Plan for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)** at 2:33 PM. The President announced the applicants for the public service and housing program funding and allowed each applicant to present their application.

Leah Pezzarossi presented the application for **Open Door Youth Services** in the amount of \$8,093.32. The President asked Ms. Pezzarossi to explain the increase from last year's request of \$5,200. Ms. Pezzarossi responded that this year they are offering 14 additional sessions and are offering transportation to their facility. Mr. Dickey asked about the curricula offered in the program. Ms. Pezzarossi stated that the curricula will include Rainbow Days – The Curriculum-Based Support Group (CBSG) Program, a unique, multicultural, evidence-based preventive intervention for selective and indicated populations. The program is designed for males and females, ages 4-17, whose high-risk situations, attitudes and behaviors place them at elevated risk for future behavioral and health problems including substance abuse, delinquency and violence. The curricula will also include Project Drug Free: Reaching for the Stars. This program focuses on alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, & other drugs; distinguishes between medicines & illegal drugs; consequences of drug use including dependency; parent and community involvement; good health practices & self-confidence; acceptance of the difference in others; importance of family and how families differ; problem solving and decision-making skills. Open Door Youth Services will conduct a minimum of 60 sessions for 55 youth at Fairmont, Green Valley, S. Ellen Jones, and Slate Run, providing prevention and early intervention programming for children to aid them in developing personal strengths and resources to minimize risk-taking behaviors. In addition to the aforementioned curriculum, various relevant videos will be accessed online and shown to participants on a tablet device. In addition to the afterschool sessions, Open Door Youth Services will now provide programming, 14 additional sessions, during Fall and Spring breaks from school. Activities will involve hikes in nature, arts, crafts, and games to help participants develop their full potential by participating in community activities. The Director asked for the expected number of participants for this year. Ms. Pezzarossi responded that with COVID-19, 2020 was a difficult year with most programming having to be completed virtually. This reduced the number of participants over the year, but had an unexpected positive impact in that parents became much more involved with programming, and became much more familiar with the New Directions Coordinator. Open Door successfully partnered with the 21st Century Community 3 Learning Center at Slate Run Elementary to provide in-person programming, and this partnership will extend to Fairmont Elementary, Green Valley Elementary, and S. Ellen Jones Elementary in the next school year, allowing a return to pre-pandemic targeted number of participants.

Angie Graf, Hope Southern Indiana, presented the application for the **Clothe A Teen** program in the amount of \$12,000. Ms. Graf stated that the objective of the Clothe A Teen program is to provide New Albany-Floyd County school system middle and high school students and any NA-FC school system elementary school students in their families/household in need with new back-to-school clothing in time for the late-July school term. Students are referred by teachers, school administrators or social services case workers; and students who enroll in the program each receive a \$100 voucher to purchase school appropriate clothing as defined by the NA-FC school system in a special "shopping trip" at a local department store. Ms. Graf added that Hope Southern Indiana estimates serving 350 New Albany residents, an increase from 289 in FY2020, anticipating a greater need due to Covid-19. Ms. Graf noted that the increase will help to provide vouchers to siblings of those that are referred to the Clothe A Teen program. The Director asked if Ms. Graf knew the number of siblings that were served in previous years. Ms. Graf estimated about 60 siblings. The President asked if everyone was able to be served that was referred. Ms. Graf responded that they were, that Hope Southern Indiana was able to raise an additional \$18,000 to supplement the \$10,000 CDBG FY20 funds. Mr. Applegate asked if the voucher for \$100 was sufficient to purchase clothing for the students. Ms. Graf responded that they raised the voucher amount from \$75 from previous years, adding that Burlington Coat Factory has been able to provide clothing at a fair price so the \$100 is sufficient.

Ramona Miller, LifeSpan Resources, Inc., presented the application for the **New Albany Rides** program in the amount of \$5,000. Ms. Miller stated that they plan to expand social transportation service for New Albany residents who are low income, age 60 plus, or who are individuals with disabilities. This program will provide transportation to life-enhancing locations such as grocery stores, pharmacies, government buildings, day or work programs, senior centers, congregate nutrition centers, or to social programs offered at the library, through New Albany Parks, the YMCA or other organizations in the New Albany area. During FY20 New Albany Rides served 75 New Albany residents and anticipate that same number for FY21. The President asked about the other funding sources and if they were able to maintain support from United Way. Ms. Miller responded that they were able to secure additional funding due to the Covid-19 to implement necessary safety protocols in order to continue service. Mr. Dickey asked if LifeSpan had additional expenses in 2020 due to Covid-19. Ms. Miller stated that in 2020, the program implemented substantial and costly protocols to safely transport clients and continued their important service to the community. These protocols included health screenings for drivers and passengers, required temperature checks before boarding, masks on drivers and passengers during all trips, social distancing on board with no more than 2 passengers per trips, Plexi-glass screens installed behind driver seats of all service vehicles, sanitizing handrails and seats after each trip and use of disinfecting foggers at the end of each service day for all service vehicles. These measures, while costly to the agency, allowed them to continue operations during the pandemic. Mr. Applegate noted the 75 unduplicated residents and asked how many rides that equated to in the service year. Ms. Miller estimated that would be about 5,000 rides, as some residents require rides every single day. Mr. Applegate if those rides are any cost to the individual. Ms. Miller responded that those clients served through this program are not billed.

John Riley, Maker 13 and the Maker Mobile Inc., presented the application for **STEAM Education in New Albany** in the amount of \$12,662. Mr. Riley stated that the plan is to visit community locations in New Albany at least once per month, if not every 3 weeks for full day experiences, for no less than 5 visits, seeing up to 1500 families total. Throughout the program and over the cooler months, they will build and distribute home based experiences, distributing up to 200 kits. Mr. Riley stated that they are open to any organization in New Albany who work with impoverished areas to create new onsite use of the Maker Mobile. For the organizations who cannot close their doors due to the community they serve, they want to meet them where they are with interactive education on advanced manufacturing equipment and support. For families that are not comfortable in group settings, they will also create take-home kits that include curriculum and materials to still have a hands-on experience in the safety of their own home. These kits will be created using the advanced manufacturing equipment in the community workshop with instructions and descriptions of the process. They will also provide video stories of the project and how the equipment was used in creating the materials needed. They will be able to facilitate pick up locations in the community through partnership with the Floyd County Library. Mr. Dickey asked for more information about the face shields that were provided to Floyd County, noting that this was an important service to the community during the pandemic. Mr. Riley stated that they distributed 15,000 face shields to Floyd County during the closure. Mr. Dickey asked how Maker 13 will advertise their locations. Mr. Riley responded that they would work with the partner organization and utilize co-branding and social media with partner agencies such as the Parks Department and the Library. The Director suggested a partnership with the New Albany Housing Authority. The President noted the importance of access to STEAM education and this program as a motivational tool for students, particularly for the population at NAHA.

Cheryl Schy, CASA of Floyd County Inc, presented the application for **CASA IT Upgrade Project** in the amount of \$3,149.94. Ms. Schy stated that in order to effectively serve all of the abused and neglected children of New Albany, they need to ensure that they can work as efficiently as possible. She stated that their outdated equipment is hindering their ability to do so. They plan to replace outdated laptops and ensure all staff are working on the same software products, which they get for free from Microsoft as part of their nonprofit subscription. In addition, they have burned through 2 small shredders as they convert

paper files to electronic files. Their documents and court reports contain protected, confidential information and must be shredded. The commercial shredder will allow them to do this task quickly and allow time for other tasks. Ms. Schy stated that they anticipate serving 485 children in FY21. The Director asked if the waitlisted children are included in the 485 number. Ms. Schy responded that there are currently 382 children in the system with 105 on the waitlist. The Director asked about other funding sources. Ms. Schy responded that their organization receives grants for salaries and basic operations, the cost of technology upgrades is not included. The President asked how many volunteers they have and noted that this is an important community service and should be advertised to spread awareness. Ms. Schy responded that they have 43 volunteers. Mr. Dickey asked about the plan for the future as far as the technology component and how often the computers will have to be replaced. Ms. Schy responded that she expected each computer to operate for about four years and they will be able to update software for free now that they have nonprofit certification. The President asked if this upgrade would address all of the computers. Ms. Schy responded that they have eight staff members and this funding would allow them to upgrade five, because they have three computers that are relatively new, and allow them to have everyone on the same platforms.

Vera McGhee, YMCA of Greater Louisville – Floyd County SACC, presented the application for **Building Assets for New Albany Youth** in the amount of \$20,000. Ms. McGhee stated that the Before and After School Program works hard to offer quality programming through a variety of curriculum options and partnerships, specifically at Fairmont, Green Valley, S. Ellen Jones and Slate Run. They use theme based curriculum written by staff that supports core values of Respect, Responsibility, Caring and Honesty. They also partner with other non-profits such as Global Game Changers to support community awareness, and the Metro United Way to support Social and Emotional Development. Additionally, they partner with the Bounce Coalition of Kentucky to train staff on Trauma Informed Care for each of their program participants, so they can provide social and emotional care based off adverse childhood experiences and help families create resiliency in their children. They specifically serve these families financially through Income Based Financial Assistance to help alleviate their financial obligations. Children become more successful when they are provided with a structured, caring environment after school with mentors who are able to provide trauma informed care, homework assistance, a healthy snack, gross motor activity and character development daily. They offer a consistent 5 day a week program from 2:30pm-6pm. They anticipate serving 150 residents over 4 schools in FY21. The President asked if the programs had to shift due to Covid-19. Ms. McGhee stated that all the programming shifted and completely depends on the decisions made by NAFCS.

Gina Brown, Let Us Learn, Inc., presented the application for **Community Garden Network** in the amount of \$26,446. Ms. Brown stated that their vision is to help create a healthier community by building spaces to grow food and educate families in an urban environment. Their mission is to serve as a bridge connecting families to food literacy and positively impacting food insecurity. Ms. Brown stated that they believe if they can build a Community Garden Network, not only will they continue to help their Growing Gardener Club families, but they could help entire neighborhoods and, in turn, help the community. They intend to add 20 more families to their Growing Gardener Club, build a community sharing garden and an LUL Youth Grow teaching garden. They hope by building relationships, the folks who would benefit from the harvest would also become volunteers. Not only would they gain produce, but they would also gain knowledge of how to grow that produce. They would be able to give back to the community. They estimate serving at least 250 New Albany residents in FY21. The Director asked for clarification about the location of a community garden. Ms. Brown stated that she was interested in vacant lots or parks in New Albany but had not secured a location. The President noted that the New Albany Housing Authority might be location to consider to help address food deserts in the community. Mr. Dickey asked if the gardens at the school are leased. Ms. Brown responded that they do not pay to lease the land but that they do carry liability insurance. Mr. Applegate asked if they sell the produce from the

gardens. Ms. Brown responded that produce is handed out and that they have done cooking classes at the New Albany Farmers' Market.

Katie Stein presented the application for **Blessings in a Backpack – Floyd County Chapter** in the amount of \$35,000. Ms. Stein stated that Blessings in a Backpack is a program that provides weekend meals to students Pre-K through 5th grade enrolled in New Albany Floyd County Schools. These students suffer from food insecurities especially during the weekend when they are away from school. They have continued to provide meals to these students even when schools were closed due to COVID. Ms. Stein stated that with the CDBG funds they will be able to pay the food costs to continue this program. Currently the program feeds 1,284 students. Food costs are \$105 per child per school year. Blessings in a Backpack has no overhead costs and our board members are volunteers. Therefore, every dollar will be spent on food for the students in New Albany Floyd County schools. The President asked if the students take the meals home. Ms. Stein responded that they take the food home on Fridays. The President asked about the students in grades above 5th grade. Ms. Stein stated that they Board is interested in providing meals to students about grade 5 but need to be able to ensure that they could sustain that program. Mr. Applegate suggested looking at serving those from the same household first.

Max Monohan, New Directions Housing Corporation, presented the application for the **New Albany Emergency Repair Program** in the amount of \$125,000. Mr. Monohan stated the New Albany Emergency Repair Program assists low to moderate income homeowners with free repairs that are focused on keeping their homes safer, more secure and more accessible. In order to qualify for the program, a homeowner must own and live in their home, make less than 80% of the Area Median Income, maintain homeowners' insurance and have no outstanding property taxes. New Directions implements the program from qualifying the homeowners to overseeing the scope of work, bidding, construction and inspections. Homeowners who receive assistance will be sent a homeowner survey after their project is complete to gauge their satisfaction with the program. New Directions has implemented the NA-ERP program on and off for more than 10 years. Mr. Monohan requested that some of the policies around the program be changed. Right now, the policy mandates that the contractors must be licensed in the City of New Albany. New Directions would like to change this to licensed contractors or contractors who are on New Directions' approved Vendor List. This would help with the issues New Directions is having getting licensed New Albany contractors to bid smaller carpentry jobs. New Directions anticipates serving 15 unique homeowners in FY21. Mr. Applegate noted that the licensing issue may have recently been changed in the State of Indiana. The President stated that this issue should come before the Commission at a later date for further discussion. The Director noted that the guidelines may have been put in place for CDBG and may not be from NARC. Ms. Collier asked how much the developer fee is. Mr. Monohan responded that it is the \$16,600 amount that includes inspection and administration of the program.

April Starks, Olive Tree Resources, Inc., presented the application for **Teen Life Leadership Development and Mentorship Program** in the amount of \$30,000. Ms. Starks stated that Olive Tree Resources, Inc. is a training partner for teens, teams and families offering various training, counseling and educational services which provide light, hope, wealth, and healing. Teen life and leadership development and Mentorship Program is designed to take teens from wonder to wonderful as they are embraced, empowered and elevated into leaders for a successful future. The program is for youth, ages 13 to 17 years old. They anticipate serving 20 New Albany residents in FY21. The Director asked for clarification about the amount of participants from New Albany currently being served in FY20. Ms. Starks explained that there are currently 10 participants enrolled from Floyd County out of the 36 participants. She stated that they are working to increase enrollment for New Albany residents. The President asked how long the program lasted. Ms. Starks responded that it is a 12 month cycle, with different levels. Mr. Dickey asked where the participants outside of New Albany are from. Ms. Starks responded that they are from Clark County and Louisville.

Kathy Wilkerson, Department of Parks and Recreation, presented the application for the **Youth Enrichment Program** in the amount of \$30,000. Ms. Wilkerson stated that the New Albany Parks & Recreation provides year round activities after school and during school breaks such as summer camps, spring and fall break camps. These activities are directed towards disadvantaged intercity youth. With the support of parents and community volunteers, YEP has become an endless resource for learning and motivating youth to do what is right. The goal of YEP is to improve social skills and overall behavior of youth 5-17 years old. This is accomplished through weekly group workshops and field experiences. They anticipate serving 400 unduplicated New Albany residents throughout the program year. Mr. Dickey asked if there were any additional fees for health and safety precautions. Ms. Wilkerson responded that they may have to end purchasing masks.

The Director thanked everyone for applying and presenting. He noted that the application process is more competitive this year and that staff may reach out with further questions. He noted that the commission may relay any notes from the Public Hearing.

Mr. Dickey motioned to close the Public Hearing for the Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21) One-Year Action Plan for the Community Development Block Grant at 3:42 PM. Mr. Applegate seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

The President opened the Public Hearing for the **OCRA Phase 3 Grant Application** at 3:42 PM.

The Director stated that the City of New Albany intends to apply to the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs for a grant from the State **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Phase 3 COVID-19 Response Program**. The Director noted that they were not eligible for Phase I and II. This program is funded by Title I of the federal Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended. These funds are to be used for a community development project that will include the following activities: Phase 3 COVID-19 Response program to provide grants for working capital to businesses within the City of New Albany, Indiana. The total amount of CDBG funds to be requested is \$250,000. The amount of CDBG funds proposed to be used for activities that will benefit low- and moderate-income persons is \$127,500. The Applicant also proposes to expend an estimated \$6,250 in non-CDBG funds on the project. These non-CDBG funds will be derived from the following sources: New Albany Redevelopment Commission – Cash on Hand – \$6,250. The Director noted that Jill Saegesser from The Wheatley Group is in the meeting today and is helping with the application and to administer the Public Hearing.

Bradley Fair, Develop New Albany Board President, commented that **Develop New Albany** is in support of the proposal. Mr. Fair stated that they would welcome any help made available to the businesses in New Albany. Mr. Dickey stated that it was important to identify and stress the need from the community and asked how many members of Develop New Albany are still hurting. Mr. Fair responded that the businesses have all been affected differently but that the need is definitely there. Mr. Fair noted the need to cover rent and utilities and as staff begins returning, it will be beneficial to help cover labor costs so that when businesses reopen and provide service at full capacity, this aid will help with that transition. Mr. Applegate stated that as a small business owner that is owner operated, the monies from this grant will go a long way and is well needed. Mr. Dickey stated that he was in support of the grant application and noted that we are still in exceptional times. He commended Mr. Fair for the important work that he and Develop New Albany do for the businesses in New Albany.

Mr. Dickey motioned to close the Public Hearing for the **OCRA Phase 3 Grant Application** at 3:50 PM. Mrs. Collier seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

The first item of business was the **Approval of the Minutes** from the February 9, 2021 meeting. The President asked if there were any necessary additions or modifications. Mr. Middleton motioned to approve the February 9, 2021 minutes. Mrs. Collier seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

The second item of business was the **Comments from the Public**. The President allowed time for the public to comment. The President noted that there were no comments.

Old Business:

The President noted that there was no Old Business.

New Business:

The first item of New Business was the **Proposed Amendment to the City of New Albany's 2020-2024 CDBG Consolidated Plan & FY20 One Year Action Plan**. The Director stated that this proposed amendment is for the remaining \$428,001 under the CARES Act additional CDBG funding. The Director stated that the amendment proposes \$348,000 being allocated towards a Public Facility-Neighborhood Health Clinic for the rehabilitation of a vacant and under-utilized commercial property for a neighborhood health clinic that will be operated by a non-profit for patients who have no insurance or who are underinsured to seek medical care to address public health and receive non-emergency diagnosis and treatment for infectious diseases such as COVID-19, including testing and vaccinations once approved by local health officials among other health issues. The improvements will include interior rooms, cabinets, flooring, lighting, plumbing, and mechanical system as needed. The amendment also proposes \$80,001 towards program administration and oversight of the CDBG-CV program. Mrs. Collier motioned to approve the Proposed Amendment to the City of New Albany's 2020-2024 CDBG Consolidate Plan & FY20 One Year Action Plan. Mr. Applegate seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

The second item of New Business was the **Resolution Approving Partnership with LifeSpring and Colonial Manor**. The Director stated that LifeSpring is an Indiana nonprofit corporation with a proven track record of delivering affordable healthcare services to low and moderate income persons. He introduced Beth Keeney of LifeSpring. Ms. Keeney thanked the Mayor and the Redevelopment Commission and stated that a community health center provides comprehensive healthcare regardless of the ability to pay. LifeSpring desires to operate, an affordable primary care clinic to provide healthcare services, including non-emergency diagnoses and treatment for infectious diseases such as COVID-19, testing and vaccinations as approved by health officials, among other health issues, to citizens of the City who may be uninsured or underinsured and in need of access to affordable healthcare. The President asked how soon the community healthcare center can be up and running. The Director responded that first they have to get the amendment and resolution approved today then they have to follow the guidelines as far as getting the bid out and as soon as this is approved today, they will get started on working on the bid documents. Mr. Forrest, Colonial Manor, LLC, thanked the Mayor and the Commission for their support of the Colonial Manor project and noted that the neighborhood's reaction has been positive thus far. Mr. Forrest estimated 60 to 90 days to build out the space for the health clinic. Mr. Dickey noted that he appreciated that LifeSpring brings a holistic or full service approach to health care, which is great for the community. Ms. Keeney stated that the integrated care model is critical to LifeSpring's clinical structure. She added that all of the treatment teams are made up of multi-disciplinary professionals. The President noted that this is the direction that healthcare is going, with individuals from different disciplines because

if there is easy accessibility to other necessary help then it is more likely for the patient to receive that care. Mr. Applegate stated that this service has been a void in the area since the sale of the County hospital and with this project, that void is being filled. Mr. Applegate thanked Ms. Keeney and her team, the administration, the Director, and Brian Forrest for putting this together. Mr. Dickey noted Mrs. Collier and Mr. Applegate sponsored the request in front of the City Council. Mr. Dickey motioned to approve the Resolution Approving Partnership with LifeSpring and Colonial Manor pending final legal review in the amount not to exceed \$350,000. Mrs. Collier seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

The third item of New Business was the **Connecting Strategies LLC – Consulting Agreement**. The Director stated that he would like to work with Connecting Strategies regarding housing in New Albany. He stated that the updated Housing Market Study should be available soon. He stated that Connecting Strategies will come in and look at the Market Study, go around the city, talk to local leaders, and see if there are ways that they can work together to help promote new housing and redevelop old housing. The Director added that he wants to look at increasing housing options for people that currently live in New Albany and those that are looking to move to New Albany. The Director stated that Mr. Goodnight is on the call. Mr. Goodnight gave his background, stating that he served as Mayor of Kokomo for 12 years, ended his last term in 2019 and started his own consulting company. He stated that he will provide consulting services to facilitate the work and projects of the Commission relating to the City's housing market. Mr. Dickey stated that we have some opportunities here and want to ensure the forward momentum continues, so he is supportive of this agreement. Mr. Applegate stated that he appreciated the outside perspective that Mr. Goodnight will be able to bring. Mr. Applegate motioned to approve the Connecting Strategies LLC – Consulting agreement in the amount not to exceed \$33,000. Mr. Middleton seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

The fourth item of New Business was the **Claims Worksheet** dated 2/15/2021. The President stated that staff was available to answer any questions or concerns. The President asked about the Spanish translation of FY21 CDBG Plan by the Hispanic Connection of Southern Indiana in the amount of \$100. The Director stated that we have a growing Hispanic community in the City and you want those that may not speak English or have English as a first language to have knowledge of the resources that are available to them. Mr. Dickey asked why he was not included in the NARC Bonding with Norwood Insurance Service. The Director stated that he will check if he has already been processed or if he will be next round. Mr. Dickey motioned to approve the Claims Worksheet dated 2/15/2021 in the amount of \$100,889.59. Mrs. Collier seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

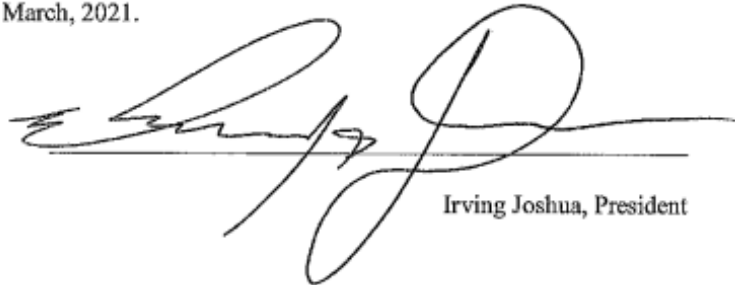
Other Business:

Ms. Murphy, School Board Advisory Member, stated that the **School Board** had a work session last night to discuss the Governor's **teacher compensation**. She stated that the commission suggested 38 different things to help teachers' salaries be raised across the state. She stated that they discussed all of those items and there were about 15 of those that they would look at as a system, but one of the recommendations is to look at local TIF money to see if there would be anyway to use any of that money to help raise teachers' salaries. She stated that they will be reaching out to have a conversation with the Director and Mayor Gahan to see if there is anything that they can do. The President responded that it is something that they can discuss and that the main thing that they need to look at in regard to the teachers' salaries is that it is a continuing, reoccurring commitment. The President added that some of the TIFs will be running out

in the near future and that it is a continuing debate about how long the TIFs will continue on. Ms. Murphy stated that was part of their discussion last night, that they have places where they will be able to cut some corners but questioned if it will give them enough income to sustain a teacher raise. Ms. Murphy added that they had another discussion about the voucher program that they are looking at State level, that they feel would move money from public schools to private schools which is concerning. Ms. Murphy stated that they will have to see how the budget pans out and how the bills go through and move from there. Ms. Murphy added that the State of Indiana has fallen far behind in teacher salary. Mr. Dickey agreed that the State has fallen behind and stated that he has no problem having a conversation about these things but he does worry about the long term financial viability because as the President stated, these TIF districts are programmed for specific purposes and they have an end cap on them by design. He added that they are talking about the long term commitment to their teachers, schools, students. He stated that he shares Ms. Murphy's concerns about the expansion of the voucher program. He stated that he would continue to urge legislators to partner with the school corporation to make teachers' salaries a priority and to enable funding to not be diverted and to go to public education as that is the only system that allows for all of our children to receive an education. He added that New Albany is known regionally for the schools and the quality and wants to keep that going as it is important to economic development and quality of life. Ms. Murphy responded that when they were comparing salaries to other local school systems, NAFCS is leading the way, that their teacher salaries are better than most in the area and benefits are better but state wide it is still below what teacher salaries look like in Illinois, Ohio, and Kentucky. She stated that Indiana has not kept up with the rate of inflation and a living wage. Ms. Murphy stated that it boils down to what the state is willing to do. The President added that everything is based on education: livelihood and the economy.

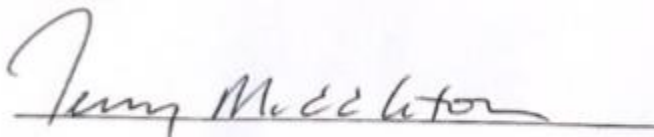
There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:29 PM.

Approved and Adopted this 9th day of March, 2021.



Irving Joshua, President

ATTEST:



Terry Middleton, Secretary