

MINUTES

NEW ALBANY REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

The regular meeting of the New Albany Redevelopment Commission was held on Tuesday, April 26, 2022, in the Council Chambers, New Albany City Hall, New Albany, Indiana.

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

Commission Members Absent: Jason Applegate

Staff Members Present: Josh Staten, Director
Jessica Campbell, Public Facilities Project Manager (PFPM)
Claire Johnson, Neighborhood Initiatives Coordinator (NIC)

Others Present: Becky King, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Floyd County
MAC Construction Representative
Makenna Hall, News & Tribune
Linda Moeller, City Controller
Bob Stein, United Consulting Engineers

The President called the meeting to order at 2:33 p.m. Roll was called. All members were present with the exception of Jason Applegate.

The first item of business was the **Approval of the Minutes** from the **April 12, 2022** meeting. The President asked if there were any necessary additions or modifications. There being none, Mrs. Collier motioned to approve the **April 12, 2022 minutes**. Mr. Dickey seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

The second item of business was the **Comments from the Public**. The President asked if there were any comments from the public. The NIC responded that no one was signed in to speak. The President noted that there were no comments from the public.

Old Business:

The President noted that there was no old business.

New Business:

The first item of New Business was **American Rescue Plan Act – Token Club (Amended Resolution)**. The Director stated that the original resolution was for a \$50,000 grant to aid in fixing up the building from 1890 as well as other services. He stated that he and the Mayor toured the building. He stated that this funding will provide the opportunity for the organization to fix structural issues and provide the best space possible to provide services to those that need them in the City. The President stated that he looked at comments on improvements and that he looked at the service that the Token Club provides and determined that it is important to do something to improve that building. He stated that this organization can make a major impact to

the people that need a place to go. He added that this building is also an important part of the downtown and that this is a recognized service statewide and nationwide and that it is important to provide this type of service. Mr. Dickey stated that the resolution is straight forward and is written to presumably cover all of the items that are identified in the not to exceed amount. He added that the bigger picture is that they are investing in downtown and saving a historic structure and that they need that facility to provide that programmatic service. He stated that more people struggled with addiction during the pandemic and that anyone can find themselves in those shoes very easily. He stated that in addition to this, although not part of the resolution is to look at the blocked sidewalk just past the building and to keep that on their radar as a potential sidewalk improvements in the future. He stated that if they are going to invest this kind of money into the building they need to make sure the infrastructure is improved as well. The Director stated that this resolution would be not to exceed \$400,000 and that without ARPA funding this project would not be able to happen. Mr. Dickey noted that this organization did not have other sources for this type of funding. Mr. Dickey motioned to approve **RC-22-2021 (Amended) Resolution Approving of Assistance/Grants to Floyd County Token Club, Inc. per The American Rescue Plan Act** in the amount not to exceed \$400,000. Mrs. Collier seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

The second item of New Business was the **American Rescue Plan Act – Imagination Library**. The Director stated that this is for Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library of Floyd County and that Becky King would give a brief overview and that this program helps with childhood literacy. Becky King, Imagination Library of Floyd County, shared that the organization assists families in building a home library and allows families to establish family reading time, support young children in language and literacy development, and share a love of reading and learning. Ms. Murphy asked how the organization comes in contact with a family that wishes to participate. Ms. King responded that they have a partnership with Baptist Floyd and a connection with the Library, Head Start, pre-schools, and the schools themselves. She stated that they meet families face-to-face in schools at registration and open house, as well as health fairs and on the Library website they can connect immediately to sign up online. The President asked if the books only goes to residents in Floyd County. Ms. King responded that the funding through ARPA would only serve those in Floyd County and only covers the costs of books. The President asked if these specific books are only available through this program. Ms. King responded that Penman Books has a contract with Dollywood to get these books otherwise they would be much more expensive. The President noted the size of the illustration on the books and that they are excellent quality books. Mr. Dickey stated that his son being involved with the program was fundamentally important to be exposed to this program and although that would have still happened with his family, the benefit was how easy the program was. He stated that for families that may not have the same luxuries, it sets up the context for future learning and success. He stated that Ms. Murphy and the school board have talked about the concern with the lag created during the pandemic with learning and that students have to catch up in some ways and that this program works to make sure that the damage is minimized and work to maintain that standard for the community that they want. Ms. Murphy asked if the books came during COVID. Ms. King responded that one thing that these families knew that they could count on during was that these books would be there once a month and that it was something for the kids to look forward to, with their name on the package. Ms. Murphy stated that some kids come into kindergarten and have no concept of how to read a book. That while some will self-select chapter books off of

the shelf while others have never held a book or understand reading left to right. She stated that academically this program helps to fill that gap. Ms. King added that Dr. Fry at IUS has found significant findings with letter recognition and first letter of a word to sound it with participants in this program. The President noted that there should be more publicity about what they do because it could have a major impact on the development of young people and many people may not realize that. He added that if it doesn't happen at this age it could be hard for kids to recover. He stated that if they are asking for support from the public they need to get publicity on how to support something like this. Mrs. Collier motioned to approve **RC-08-2022 Resolution Approving of COVID Relief Assistance/Grants to Dolly Parton's Imagination Library** in the amount of \$50,000. Mr. Middleton seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

The third item of New Business was the **FY22 One-Year Action Plan**. The Director stated that today's action requires the commission to close the 30-day comment period. He stated that they haven't received the final amount from HUD yet. He added that allocation should be done by the next meeting. Mr. Dickey allowed time for the public in attendance to speak on the plan. There were no comments from the public. Mr. Dickey motioned to close the 30-day comment period for the **FY22 One-Year Action Plan**. Mr. Middleton seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

The fourth item of New Business was the **Claims Worksheet** dated 4/25/2022. The President noted that the staff was available to answer any questions that the commission might have. Mr. Dickey asked how far along the Griffin Center project is. The PFPM responded that the contractor has until mid-June to complete and that it is a hard deadline. Mr. Dickey asked if they were ahead of schedule. The PFPM responded that they were on schedule. Mrs. Collier motioned to approve the **Claims Worksheet** dated 4/25/2022 in the amount of \$198,068.67. Mr. Dickey seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

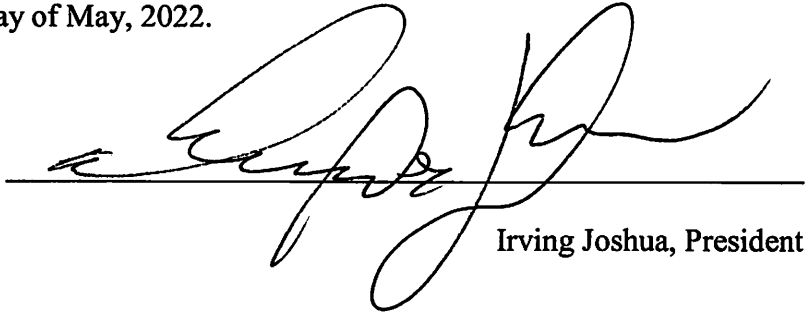
Other Business:

The first item of Other Business included requests for updates about projects surrounding City Hall. Mr. Dickey asked about the status of the alleyway improvements. The Director responded that they are waiting on some items to be received from shipping but that other than that construction is complete. He stated that they don't have an exact time frame on when those items will arrive. The President asked if there was an update on striping of the parking lot. The Director stated that he would check with the City Engineer on that. Mr. Middleton asked if the concrete wall on the Underground Station wall facing the entrance to City Hall could have the mortar chipped off and painted. The Director responded that he can reach out and see what it going on. Mr. Middleton suggested using as a mural project. The President clarified that would be something that redevelopment would take on the expense of such a project. The Director stated that he would talk to them.

The third item of Other Business was Ms. Murphy's update from the New Albany Floyd County School Board. She stated that the school board had their work session last evening and that they had a good discussion. She added that the secondary art show is going on at the Carnegie right now and on Thursday the elementary art show will be at the New Albany Library.

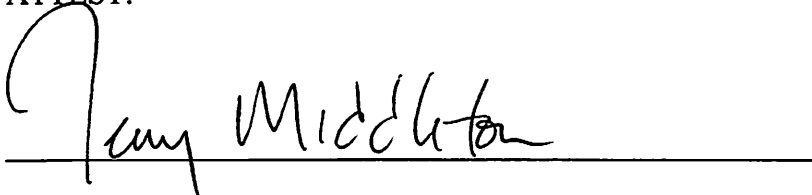
There being no Other Business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:01 PM.

Approved and Adopted this 10th day of May, 2022.



Irving Joshua, President

ATTEST:



Terry Middleton, Secretary