

MINUTES of a regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Redevelopment Agency of the City of Redlands held in the City Council Chambers, Civic Center, 35 Cajon Street, at 4:49 P.M. on October 7, 2003.

PRESENT Susan Pepler, Vice Chairman
Pat Gilbreath, Member
Gary George, Member
Jon Harrison, Member

ABSENT Karl N. (Kasey) Haws, Chairman

STAFF John Davidson, Executive Director; Daniel J. McHugh, Agency Attorney; Michael Reynolds, Agency Treasurer; Jeffrey L. Shaw, Community Development Director; James R. Bueermann, Police Chief; and Lorrie Poyzer, Agency Secretary.

The minutes of the regular meeting of September 16, 2003, were unanimously approved as submitted on motion of Mr. Harrison, seconded by Mr. George.

NEW BUSINESS

BNSF Railroad Siding Facilities - Public Works Director Mutter reported a plan has been initiated to redevelop and revitalize portions of downtown Redlands bordered by Redlands Boulevard on the south, Texas Street on the west, Orange Street on the east and Colton Avenue on the north. The first priority is to develop the "core block" area between Stuart Avenue and Redlands Boulevard in the vicinity of the Krikorian Theater. The City envisions a family-oriented, pedestrian-friendly atmosphere with the expansion of the existing theater, the construction of a major hotel complex, new restaurants, retail shopping and sufficient parking to accommodate these uses. A significant part of this program is the development of a "park once" concept. Studies have been initiated to look at the parking trends and needs with the ultimate goal of developing a major parking structure to serve this area. A key to the success of such a plan is to eliminate barriers to smooth pedestrian flow. One such barrier is the existing Burlington Northern and Santa Fe (BNSF) Railroad line passing through the area. This line serves only a few minor uses on one public siding. Trains are limited to a few rail cars per month. There is a desire as a part of this plan to see the rail line for freight operations abandoned and removed from the west side of Eureka Street to the east through downtown Redlands. Staff developed and issued a Request for Technical Proposals that outlined the scope of services for completion of engineering services for the evaluation and design of railroad siding facilities in the central business district (core target area). This project includes the evaluation and analysis of space requirements necessary for these facilities, potential locations and final engineering designs, including drawings, details, specifications and estimates. A representative from Hanson Wilson, Inc. spoke and was available to answer questions.

Mr. Harrison urged approval of this project as we need to re-located the freight rails and we need this tool to develop the "core block" and moved to direct staff to negotiate a contract up to \$95,000.00 with Hanson Wilson, Inc. to provide consulting engineering services for the design of railroad siding facilities as a requirements for the abandonment of freight operations of the BNSF Railroad line in downtown Redlands and return this contract to the Redevelopment Agency for final approval; and further moved to direct staff to amend the five-year implementation plan to include this project and return this plan to the Redevelopment Agency for approval. There was no second to the motion. By consensus, Board members agreed to continue this item to the October 21, 2003, meeting and directed staff to provide additional information about other potential projects in the downtown area that may be seeking to use this same funding so that the Board could look at priorities for use of available Redevelopment funds.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None forthcoming.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Board of Directors' meeting of the Redevelopment Agency adjourned at 5:15 P.M. The next regular meeting will be held on October 21, 2003.

Secretary