

CITY OF RAVENSWOOD DEVELOPMENT
Agenda for September 21, 2004 meeting

1. Roll call of members and introductions of guests and those wishing to address the RDA
2. Amendment and/or approval of minutes from 8/17 meeting.
3. Treasurer's Report (Sherry Gorman)
4. Orientation for RDA members - 15 minutes [*The Chair requests that, to the extent possible, members submit, in advance, any particular questions they have about the RDA governance structure, applicable state and local status that apply to the RDA, past work of the RDA and the RDA's immediate goals. We will have a very limited time to cover these issues and the Chair will attempt to provide a comprehensive written response to questions received in advance.*]
5. Infrastructure Financing for City Governments (Audrey Miller)
6. Historical District Designation update (Tim Meeks with the MOVRC and Alan Rowe, National Register Coordinator)
7. Update on City Council's efforts to modify the city ordinance covering RDA membership residency (Lucy Harbert and Judy Wiseman)
8. 501C3 status (Julie Gurtis)
9. Marshall/WVU update (Mark Gorman)
10. Subcommittee Reports:
 - Business Recruitment, Retention and Tourism (Debi Hunt)
 - Downtown Revitalization and Landscape Improvement (Kim Quillen)
 - Work date for RDA/volunteers to clean downtown, rent power washer
 - Possible Acquisition of lot located at the corner of Sand and Water Streets (Mark Gorman)
 - Recreation, Arts and Entertainment (Lucy Harbert)
 - Donation for Oktoberfest
 - Infrastructure and Grants (Audrey Miller)
 - Update on Rt. 33 Infrastructure Improvement (Audrey Miller and Earl Wolfe)
11. Discussion of possible fund raising opportunities
12. Discussion of the need for alternate meeting dates/times or for more frequent meetings
13. Setting of the preliminary agenda for the next meeting
14. Any other business of the RDA
15. Approve next meeting date of October 19, 2004

CITY OF RAVENSWOOD DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MINUTES

Tuesday, August 17, 2004

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Place: City Hall

Attendance: Wilma Fourney, Brenda Carr, Mary Pat Glover, Mark Gorman, Sherry Gorman, Julie Gurtis, Lucy Harbert, Audrey Miller, Kim Quillen, Bill Ritchie, Judy Wiseman, Earl Wolfe

Visitors: Ali Thompson, Curtis Johnson, Ed Rauh, Tim Meeks, Mayor Roseberry

The meeting was called to order by RDA President, Mark Gorman.

The minutes of the previous meeting, July 20, were approved. MOTION TO ACCEPT: Lucy Harbert SECOND: Mary Pat Glover

Sherry Gorman presented the Treasurer's Report, giving a beginning balance of \$10283.07. Two checks had been written during the month: WV Historic Preservation Office for \$44.25 and Mark Gorman for \$176.78 for weed spraying. Ending balance: \$10062.04. MOTION TO ACCEPT: Wilma Fourney SECOND: Brenda Carr. A bill for \$19.99 to Bob Staats for weed killer will be presented to RDA.

Julie Gurtis reported that the Authority is now tax exempt. The Authority will be looking into looking into 501C3 classification. This will cost \$500.00, but it will open up the possibilities for additional grant applications

Tim Meeks of MOVRC indicated we will apply for Historic District Designation. Approximately \$80,000.00 is earmarked for surveying and planning. The deadline is October 31, 2004. Grant funds are awarded on a matching basis. Discussion that followed this presentation: Pres. Gorman would like to involve WVU graduate students in this project along with the Marshall students. To qualify for Historic status, buildings must be at least 50 years old. There is no set number of houses/buildings to be included in the distinction – sometimes it is as low as 3 buildings. Tax breaks are available for all buildings in the distinction, not just for those classified as historic. The Authority would like to have Alan Rowe, Coordinator, National Register, at the Sept. meeting. Pres. Gorman asked all RDA members to think of questions concerning historic distinction and send them to him and he would forward them to Tim.

Two grants have been submitted to Transportation Enhancement. One has been granted. Another grant has been submitted to Recreational Trails. RDA would like WVU students to work on this also.

The Marshall Study has provided Ravenswood Land Use maps showing how the town land is being used. Several corrections need to be made on the maps before the final copy is printed. Pres. Gorman will get a map to each member so they can mark needed corrections.

No discussion on the web site. It was noted the web site was down on 8/16. If you find the site posting error message, write the message down along with the number of the message.

Subcommittees:

Business Recruitment, Retention and Tourism (Debi Hunt) – Bob Staats is working on trying to get some type of watercraft to the area that would attract tourists. Winchester/Frederick County, VA has sent a letter to the City inviting community leaders there for festivities the week end of Sept. 10th. The WVU Extension Office burned this past week. RDA would like to see a town landlord offer the Office the use of a building while their office is being rebuilt. Contact person at the Extension would be Ed Smolder. Julie Gurtis would look into this. A suggested building: the old post office.

Downtown Revitalization and Landscape Improvement (Kim Quillen) – Kim suggested asking landlords if they would be willing to let art students from the high school display their artwork in the windows. Banners will be ordered for the downtown area.

Recreation, Arts and Entertainment (Lucy Harbert) - Oktoberfest has a website. The event will be held Oct. 16th. The RDA is asked to be responsible for 2 events. Lucy would like to get a permanent stage for the Park. Approximate cost: \$40,000.00. Ed Flinn has agreed to do the basic drawings for the stage. Businesses will donate some products towards the building of it.

Infrastructure and Grants (Audrey Miller) - The second reading of the proposed water line to the annex property and the lagoon upgrade will be part of the City Councils business to be held at 7:00 that evening.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Brenda Carr SECOND: Lucy Harbert

Audrey Miller
RDA Secretary