



City of Olympia

City Hall
601 4th Avenue E
Olympia, WA 98501

Information: 360.753.8447

Meeting Minutes City Council

Thursday, December 4, 2014

4:30 PM

Council Chambers

Potential Meeting - CRA Open House

1. ROLL CALL

Present: 4 - Mayor Stephen H. Buxbaum, Mayor Pro Tem Nathaniel Jones, Councilmember Julie Hankins and Councilmember Steve Langer

OTHERS PRESENT

Community Planning and Development Director Keith Stahley
Downtown Liaison Brian Wilson
Associate Planner Amy Buckler
ECONorthwest Managing Director Lorelei Juntunen
Project Manager Erik Rundell
Pacifica Law Group Partner Jay Reich

2. BUSINESS ITEM

- 2.A** [14-1150](#) Community Renewal Area (CRA) Open House Events December 3, 2014 and December 4, 2014

The open house began with approximately 15 citizens discussing the Community Renewal Area (CRA) with City staff at breakout tables from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Mayor Buxbaum introduced the meeting at 5:30 p.m to about 25 citizens. He gave an overview of the meeting and asked for public input for quality development of Downtown. He turned the time to Mr. Reich who gave a background on the Community Renewal Act.

Mr. Reich explained that government does not provide funding for development. However, private investment will increase development. He explained that investors will only come to Olympia when confident on the return on investment. Currently, Downtown contains a significant amount of blight that detracts investors including a large homeless population, high crime rate, and drug use. The goal is to build partnerships with private investors to improve Downtown.

Mr. Stahley outlined Washington communities that have successfully implemented CRA including Bremerton, Vancouver, Tukwila, and Shoreline. The City of Tukwila has used CRA to eradicate blight including prostitution, high crime rates, and drug use.

Ms. Buckler explained the relationship between CRA and the Comprehensive Plan. CRA is project oriented and will include public and private partnerships for funding. The Comprehensive Plan is a five year plan with high level policies.

Ms. Juntunen discussed the next steps following this open house including Council action, the RFP process, and ongoing public outreach, education, and involvement.

The information was provided.

3. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Buxbaum closed the meeting at 6:05 p.m. thanking citizens for participating. He encouraged them to circulate around the room to discuss their concerns with City staff.