

**BOARD MINUTES**  
**Monday, July 17, 2024, 5:30 p.m.**

The FHRA Board met in public session at 9001 E. 59<sup>th</sup> Street, Public Assembly Room, Lawrence, IN at 5:35 p.m. Meeting was called to order by Board President, Russell Brown.

Members present in person: Russell Brown, Trace Yates, Zechariah Banks  
Members present by phone: Karen Horth Powers  
Staff Present: Keith Johnson, Heather Millikan, April Pyatt

Mr. Brown opened the meeting at 5:35 p.m. and stated there was an in person quorum present and there was a member present by phone, and he took a roll call.

Ms. Horth Powers stated in the Secretary Treasurer's report that the 2023 audit work is still under way.

The first item of new business was approval of the June 17, 2024 board meeting minutes. Mr. Banks made a motion to approve the June minutes and Mr. Yates seconded the motion. Mr. Brown took a roll call vote, and the motion passed 4-0.

The next item on the agenda was the approval of an Engagement Agreement with Taft Advisors LLC for advocacy and consulting services. Mr. Brown stated that FHRA when new administration took office in January, one of the goals was to employ federal lobbyists for purposes for advocating for the city at large and the Fort Harrison Reuse Authority, specifically in Washington D.C. The FHRA has worked with Taft to receive a proposal. This has a monthly amount terminable with thirty days advance notice by either party to specifically advocate with federal agencies, such as Congress and the White House. Mr. Brown asked for a motion. Ms. Horth Powers made the motion. Mr. Zechariah Banks seconded the motion. Mr. Brown took a roll call vote. Mr. Yates stated with apprehension he voted aye. All other board members voted aye, and the motion passed 4-0. Mr. Brown followed up with that he understood Mr. Yates' apprehension and one of the goals will be to evaluate that FHRA believes they are getting opportunities based on having someone on the ground because it is important for future development and may not be possible without participation from Washington D.C.

Mr. Johnson gave an Executive Director's update. He stated that on the development front, Foamcraft is FHRA's top priority. They continue to work on the recruitment for a restaurant at that prime spot. Mr. Johnson shared that Keystone had just closed on their future development and that would be the Fort's signature gateway on 56<sup>th</sup> Street. Mr. Johnson stated he hopes by next month to have a timeline of how it will play out for construction. Davis Townhomes is still underway and FHRA still have some other pieces on the east side of Lee and 56<sup>th</sup>. The open parcels update he has been having conversations with one person on the east side of 56<sup>th</sup> Street but not ready to bring to the board yet.

Mr. Johnson stated he continues to have meetings with Lawrence Utilities about water and sewer development and the capacity challenges. In addition, they are working on the city's applications for transportation planning with MPO for the end of the year and for next year working on the CCMG application on projects.

Mr. Johnson said on the arts and culture front, the Fort Ben Farmer's Market is underway, and Fridays at the Fort is underway. Heartland will be doing a couple of films to be announced soon. The Purple Line opening is October 16<sup>th</sup>. Also, MPO's statewide will get a tour of the Fort to showcase FHRA's work.


Mr. Johnson said he and the mayor had the chance to go to Washington D.C. and met with Congressman Carson to discuss all the work. They also got to meet with Secretary Buttigieg with the Department of Transportation to pitch all they are doing with the Purple Line.


Mr. Yates asked about the Davis Townhomes update. Mr. Johnson said he really didn't have any additional information. Mr. Brown stated that FHRA's counsel had been communicating with Davis Home's counsel regarding the delay. As he understands it was there were some code interpretations that were holding up development. There is an indication now that development is coming sooner than later.

Mr. Brown asked if there were any comments or questions from the public. Mr. Brad Klopfenstein, a Lawton Loop resident and President of the Lawrence Chamber of Commerce stated that the city of Lawrence just finished the first annual Taste of Lawrence. He said it was a huge success. He thanked the FHRA for sharing and promoting it on social media. The Taste of Lawrence got a lot of attention for the city and the participants were happy to showcase their food. Mr. Klopfenstein also stated there is a Lawrence Chamber monthly luncheon series. He stated he was recently put on a board in Lawrence and was looking at Indiana Public Access Councilor site and realized Indiana Access Councilor, Luke Britt is a resident of Lawrence and will be a speaker at next month's luncheon. It takes place on August 20<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m. at the Fort Harrison State Park Inn. All invited to hear what he has to say. Mr. Brown said that Mr. Klopfenstein should get CLE credits.

Mr. Brown stated that in the audience were financial consultants from Bondry who met with the FHRA board and gave a deep dive into FHRA's obligations for the Keystone Project. He appreciated them giving the board and the new faces a refresher on understanding public finance and how we have participated in that project. He thanked the legal counsel and executive director for pushing to get the Keystone closing done and moving forward with no further extensions.

There were no additional questions from the public. Mr. Brown stated the next meeting is August 19<sup>th</sup> unless a change of date is needed and FHRA will post the new date. Mr. Brown adjourned the meeting at 5:46 p.m.

  
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Signature                      8/26/24  
Date

  
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Signature                      8/28/21  
Date