City of Jacksonville September 20, 2023 Community Redevelopment Agency Uncertified Condensed Copy

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CITY OF JACKSONVILLE COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY BOARD MEETING

Proceedings held on Wednesday, September 20, 2023, commencing at 2:00 p.m., Jacksonville City Hall, Lynwood Roberts Room, 117 West Duval Street, Jacksonville, Florida, before Diane M. Tropia, FPR, a Notary Public in and for the State of Florida at Large.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

JIM CITRANO, Chair. GEORGE SAOUD, Vice Chair. OLIVER BARAKAT, Board Member. CRAIG GIBBS, Board Member. BRAXTON GILLAM, Board Member. JOSHUA GARRISON, Board Member. JOE HASSAN, Board Member. CAROL WORSHAM, Board Member.

ALSO PRESENT:

LORI BOYER, DIA, Chief Executive Officer.
GUY PAROLA, DIA, Operations Manager.
STEVE KELLEY, DIA, Director of Development.
JIMMY PELUSO, City Council Liaison.
INA MEZINI, Strategic Initiatives Coordinator. RIC ANDERSON, Marketing and Communications JOHN SAWYER, Office of General Counsel.

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board member.

BOARD MEMBER HASSAN: Joe Hassan, board

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MR. SAWYER: John Sawyer, Office of General Counsel.

THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Is there anybody online that we need to recognize? Councilman Peluso or any other folks?

MS. BOYER: Mr. Anderson is shaking his head no over there.

THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Before I ask for public comments, I was given a message that at the last meeting some of the folks on Zoom were having trouble hearing us. So when you do have a comment, if you could please speak clearly into the microphone.

Thank you.

Okay. Do we have any public comments 19 today?

MR. ANDERSON: No, sir.

21 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Then we will go

22 ahead and start the --

23 MS. BOYER: Mr. Chair?

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, ma'am.

MS. BOYER: I would just ask that, since

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2:00 p.m.

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PROCEEDINGS

September 20, 2023

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THE CHAIRMAN: Good afternoon. My name is Jim Citrano, and I'm going to

call the September Downtown Investment

Authority board meeting to order.

Let's go ahead for the record and start with introductions, starting with Mr. Parola, please.

> MR. PAROLA: Guy Parola, staff. MS. BOYER: Lori Boyer, CEO.

I'll introduce Mr. Kelley who's walking

back to his chair. Steve Kelley.

MR. KELLEY: Thank you.

BOARD MEMBER GARRISON: Josh Garrison, board member.

BOARD MEMBER GIBBS: Craig Gibbs, board

member. BOARD MEMBER BARAKAT: Oliver Barakat,

board member.

BOARD MEMBER WORSHAM: Carol Worsham, board member.

BOARD MEMBER SAOUD: George Saoud, board member.

BOARD MEMBER GILLAM: Braxton Gillam, Diane M. Tropia, Inc., Post Office Box 2375, Jacksonville, FL 32203

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we moved rooms, maybe we could, you know, 15 minutes in or something, ask for public comment again because I'm just afraid there may be people that have gone to the other location that didn't get the message to get over here, and just to accommodate the sunshine requirement of the relocated room, maybe we can --

THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Then when we transition out of CRA into the DIA meeting, we'll use that as the time to do it.

Okay. So we're going to start with our CRA agenda.

And I'll first ask if there are any voting conflicts that we need to announce today.

BOARD MEMBERS: (No response.)

THE CHAIRMAN: None. Okay. Then the first order of business would be

to approve the -- first, the August 16 workshop minutes.

Does anybody have any questions, comments on those? If not --

BOARD MEMBER GILLAM: Move to approve.

BOARD MEMBER SAOUD: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: We have a motion and a Diane M. Tropia, Inc., Post Office Box 2375, Jacksonville, FL 32203

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1 second. 2

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All in favor, say aye.

BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

4 THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?

5 BOARD MEMBERS: (No response.)

6 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Then those minutes 7 pass.

8 Transitioning to the CRA meeting minutes 9 from August 16.

10 Again, any questions or comments?

BOARD MEMBER GILLAM: Move to approve. 11

BOARD MEMBER SAOUD: Second. 12

THE CHAIRMAN: We have a first and a 13

14 second. All in favor of, say aye.

BOARD MEMBERS: Aye. 15

THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?

BOARD MEMBERS: (No response.)

THE CHAIRMAN: Then the minutes pass as 18

19 well.

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20 Do we have any consent agenda items to

21 discuss today?

MS. BOYER: No, sir. We have one item 22

23 that went to SIC committee which appears as a

resolution, but there was a recommended 24 amendment for the SIC committee, so it's on the

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agenda separately.

THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Then we'll move on

3 and we will discuss Resolution 2023-09-01,

which is the local option sales tax and the ROI 4

5 associated with that. I assume either

6 Ms. Boyer or Mr. Kelley will be presenting

7 that.

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MS. BOYER: So Mr. Kelley is going to

present it, but I will defer to the SIC 9

committee chair inasmuch as there was a

11 committee vote and the committee vote was

12 unanimous in support of the resolution with the

amendment that had been suggested by the 13

inclusion of the --14

THE CHAIRMAN: Okav.

Mr. Saoud, would you like to make any 16

17 comments?

> BOARD MEMBER SAOUD: No. I have no comments, and I am supportive of the resolution and the comments that were made at the SIC

21 meetina.

22 I will turn it over to Mr. Kelley to make

23 his presentation.

Thank you.

MR. KELLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair and

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Mr. SIC Chair. 1

2 So I will call your attention -- you have

two versions of this in front of you, one in

the agenda packet and then an extra version

that is the redline version -- actually, the

blueline version that incorporates some of the

clarifying points that were brought forth in

8 that committee meeting as well as the amendment

9 that was proposed. So I think it's going to be

10 easier if you'll follow along with the redline,

and I'll just focus on those additions. 11

So under the Exhibit A criteria, there's a 12

bullet point, Number 3, that states that the 13

14 maximum payout of the completion grant is

earned when leasing activity reaches 90 percent 15

of the total leasable retail square footage 16

17 determined, and that establishes a definition

of effective gross leased space. And it's 18

19 against that calculation that any pro rata

20 payoffs would be made, and that those leases

21 should have a minimum term of three years with

operators meeting the definition of "retail" 22

23 found in the Retail Enhancement Program

guidelines. The remainder of that sentence 24

is -- was found originally.

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1 Bullet point Number 4 states that

developers are to provide up to two years -- or

are provided up to two years following the

documented date of substantial completion to

satisfy the executed lease requirement and

request payout of the approved additional 6

funding, after which time the commitment for 7

additional funding is terminated. That was

originally stated as one year. 9

Number 5 states that the pro rata portion of the completion grant may be earned and

applied for in not more than two tranches up to 12 the second anniversary of the documented date 13

14 of substantial completion. The pro rata

calculation shall be based on the actual gross 15

square footage of the eligible retail space 16

17 where a binding, bona fide lease with a tenant

meeting those requirements established herein 18

are entered into by the landlord and the 19

tenant, which is a defined term as actual 20

21 leased space, divided by the aforementioned

effective gross leased space definition. A 22

23 minimum of 60 percent of effective gross lease space must be under lease before payment of the 24

25 first tranche may be requested.

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Number 8 just added the clarification for space leased by the landlord, and only the local option sales tax from street-front or space facing the street-front at ground level, rooftop, unless otherwise agreed to by the DIA in its sole discretion.

Conversations with -- this was requested by the -- the developer because of some unique configurations of their -- planned unique configurations of their space. Rather than trying to get into every possible configuration here, that caveat was added that -- that we would have that conversation and take those up as might be warranted.

And then, finally, is the previously mentioned 20 percent equity requirement of the developer.

The only other additions or modifications go to the operational compliance considerations where, in Number 1, we had the requirement of the copies of the Form DR-15 to support the sales tax receipts remitted annually. And then we talked about the punitive measure, I guess you could say, if -- if that actual local option sales tax fell short of what the

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- expectation was. And so there's a clarifying point that any such withholding will not affect
- the maximum REV Grant amount as approved and 3
- documented in the economic development 4
- agreement or other terms of that REV Grant, 5
- including but not limited to the outside 6
- maturity date for payment. 7
- 8 Mr. Chair, I believe that's it.
- THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. 9

So this is a voting item. So can I ask 10 11 for anybody that's so inclined to make a

12 motion, and then we can get into discussion?

BOARD MEMBER GILLAM: Move to approve. 13

BOARD MEMBER SAOUD: Second. 14

THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. I've got a motion

15 16 and a second. 17

Let's -- let's -- again, this was the subject of our workshop. So for those board members that participated in the workshop, this was discussed at length and vetted. Obviously, some of you guys were not involved in the

23 So we'll go ahead, and if anybody has any comments or questions -- starting with 25 Mr. Hassan. You're up.

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BOARD MEMBER HASSAN: I went to the 1 workshop. I don't have any further questions. 3

THE CHAIRMAN: Okay.

Mr. Gillam.

5 BOARD MEMBER GILLAM: I was at the workshop, but I left a little early, and I had one question about one of the additional pages 7 8 that were provided.

There's a definition for "substantial completion" provided to us, and I'm just trying to make sure I understand. This talks about substantial completion being -- and calculation occurring once the vanilla shell stage is complete, and there wouldn't be any tax -sales tax earned at that point.

So help me understand the use of that definition and whether or not that is included in the current resolution.

MR. KELLEY: Through the Chair to Mr. Gillam, so the triggering -- or the purpose of the substantial completion date to be included in here is just starting that one-year clock and then the second year clock. So in determination of when that starts, there was some conversation about what that definition --

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what does that really mean, because --

especially with the mixed-use property,

supposedly you could -- or, theoretically, you

could get a CO for a portion of the building

5 but not all of the building.

So that its principal use has achieved its CO and that the leasable space that's been

included in the local option sales tax

calculations is at a vanilla state, vanilla 9

10 shell stage, that would be included, and it

11 wouldn't be the only factors in the definition

of substantial completion but would be included 12

within there. 13

14 And that was something that was discussed that is not captured in the Exhibit A before 15 you. So it's -- it was routed for further 16

17 consideration. 18 I might call your attention as well to

the -- on the back of the memorandum, there are 19 several other considerations that were 20

21 discussed in the SIC workshop that have not

22 been captured here either. I'd be happy to go

through those or answer questions or -- at your 23 direction, Mr. Chair. 24

25 BOARD MEMBER GILLAM: I have no further Diane M. Tropia, Inc., Post Office Box 2375, Jacksonville, FL 32203

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questions.

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THE CHAIRMAN: You say you don't --

BOARD MEMBER GILLAM: (Inaudible.)

4 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. So there's -- repeat

what you said earlier; that there's items that 5 6

were not discussed? 7

MS. BOYER: Mr. Chair, if I may?

Mr. Kelley and I were just addressing this.

So what he is saying are -- on the back 9 10 here are things that were brought up by various

members in the workshop but did not seem to 11

12 have the support of the majority of the members

in the workshop. So they were brought up. 13

14 They were discussed. And then kind of in

several instances, it seems like -- our 15

interpretation -- my interpretation was that 16

the members did not express the desire that 17

18 they amend the program to include it. There

19 was a clear expression of desire to amend the

20 program to include the equity requirement but

21 not, for example, to eliminate the restriction

on further grant requests. 22

23

So the explanation had been provided that we typically -- when we fund FAB-REP or we fund

Retail Enhancement, we fund it out of our own

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money. Our own money is being generated by a part of the sales tax that we're capturing. If

3 we're now giving the sales tax in a completion

grant, then we don't have it to give it away a 4

5 second time. That's why they didn't include 6 it.

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So some of those were raised and, I thought, answered in the meeting and didn't

require further amendment. That's up to you 9

10 all. If there's a strong feeling that some of 11 those should be incorporated, then we would

12 certainly consider amending to do that.

THE CHAIRMAN: Well, I would say, as we go down, each board member, if you would like to

comment on that, we can. I do have not a 15

concern but a comment on at least one of those, 16

17 so ...

18 Mr. Saoud, would you like to --

BOARD MEMBER SAOUD: No. I have no 19

20 further comments.

THE CHAIRMAN: Okay.

Why don't you go ahead, Ms. Worsham.

BOARD MEMBER WORSHAM: Well, I was not at

the workshop, but I had the opportunity to go 24

25 through what you all worked on, and I think

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it's an exciting option for things that meet

2 the tiers. 3 I just had a question. And I think -- you

know, I like the -- you know, the narrowness of 4

5 where it can be applied. The retail and office

6 space, if I understood it correctly, has to

7 front the street, but if that retail or office

went through the entire first floor, then that 8

would be -- that whole space would be eligible 9

10 then, or the tax generated in that, because it

fronts -- because it -- I'm thinking of an 11

12 example like Bread & Board where the whole

first floor is, you know, open and accessible 13

14 to the street, and -- is that the intent?

MR. KELLEY: Through the Chair to 15

16 Ms. Worsham, yes, ma'am, that is correct, but

the one caveat that I would say is that 17

upstairs office space is not eligible by these 18

19 parameters. There is some consideration that

20 if -- if a ground floor space -- that over its

21 life could be eligible for retail use, but

temporarily -- or the initial tenant was an 22

23 office user, that they would get positive

24 consideration in this count.

But the intention was to really focus on

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that street-front activation, and so that's --

you're correct in your thinking.

3 BOARD MEMBER WORSHAM: I mean, I

understand the program. I think it's exciting. 4

I didn't really have any other questions based

on what I read. 6

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Barakat.

BOARD MEMBER BARAKAT: Thank you,

9 Mr. Chair.

10 Further embellishing on the addition that

11 was distributed just before the meeting to

12 criteria bullet number 5, that came out of

discussion with Mr. Kelley and I. I had asked 13 what does substantial completion mean, since 14

15 we're talking about a mixed-use project where

one component of the project may be completed 16

17 and the rest is not.

18 So I'd like that to be added to -- which

would be added to the top of Page 4. And I 19 would propose changing the word "vanilla shell" 20

21 to "cold dark shell."

22 Vanilla shell is probably more than we 23 need. That means bathrooms sometimes are

24 finished, a hard ceiling or a drop ceiling is

25 completed. I don't think we need that to

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trigger the substantial completion for the 2 retail space, just the cold dark shell

3 definition.

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4 So I would like to add that friendly amendment to the motion to approve the resolution.

And then two other points.

8 I think it was Mr. Hassan that made the suggestion or brought up the concern about 9 10 relocating. This is from within downtown. We were very specific, I believe, in our 11 12 commercial office tenant incentives that any incentives would not be given to office tenants 13 14 that relocated from one end of downtown to another. Correct me if I'm wrong. 15

So based on that precedent, why would we not include that prohibition with this incentive program? Is there any reason we wouldn't do it?

19 20 MR. KELLEY: Through the Chair to 21 Mr. Barakat, that's actually captured in Number 5, under the additional considerations. 22

23 BOARD MEMBER BARAKAT: Correct. 24 MR. KELLEY: And so that's at the will of

the board. It was a point that was brought up

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in the SIC workshop, but there was not a

resolution as to whether that should or should

3 not be included. I only incorporated those

4 that I saw as -- as given positive

5 consideration in that meeting.

BOARD MEMBER BARAKAT: It seems to me, if we're offering a developer a completion grant to simply relocate one business from one end of downtown to another, we're not accomplishing anything from a policy standpoint.

So I would be in support of incorporating the Number 5 concept into the program as an additional change. I don't know if that requires a separate motion, but I'm happy to get comments from other board members and amend the motion.

No other comments, Mr. Chairman.

MR. KELLEY: Mr. Chair, if I may just

19 elaborate on that point a bit further?

In the Retail Enhancement Program, what

21 Mr. Barakat is referencing has a couple of

carve-outs, if you will, where eligibility 22

23 might still be considered. And those are, if

the retail tenant is at the end of the lease

25 period -- and I think it contemplates as

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considering leaving the area, which I'm not

sure how we would actually document, but at

least we could have that conversation. They

are at a potential risk of leaving the area. 4

5 And Number 2 is if that retailer is

substantially increasing their square footage.

7 So I incorporated that, same language from

8 the Retail Enhancement Program, into this

bullet point, Number 5. I just wanted to be 9

10 transparent about what's being proposed.

BOARD MEMBER BARAKAT: Thank you.

12 I would be in support of similar

13 parameters (inaudible) Retail Enhancement.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Gibbs.

BOARD MEMBER GIBBS: Number 5 does make 15

16 sense. You need to --

MS. BOYER: Microphone.

BOARD MEMBER GIBBS: Thank you. 18

19 Number 5 does make sense. If you need a

20 second to Oliver's friendly amendment, I would

21 second Number 5.

The Exhibit A amendment I'm not as keen

23 on, but Number 5 does make sense.

24 Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Garrison.

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BOARD MEMBER GARRISON: Thank you, 1

> 2 Mr. Chair.

3 No questions or comments at this time.

THE CHAIRMAN: It sounds like we're going 4

to have an amendment here.

6 Before we do, I'll just make my comment.

7 I'm in favor.

8 For the record, staff, this is not a new

9 incentive. This is just a new process for

10 calculating the ROI for an existing applicant

11 that's asking for an already preexisting

12 incentive package; is that accurate?

MR. KELLEY: Mr. Chair, you're absolutely 13

14 correct. Thank you for raising that point.

And for further clarification for those

16 that were not at the workshop, this is

17 following the REV Grant application, additional

request for funding, principally under a 18

19 completion grant scenario, which requires going

through the tiers process or the tiers system 20

21 process. And if all of those hurdles have been

22 met, then this -- this approach in calculating

23 ROI would be employed and -- per the various

limitations as captured in the document. 24

25 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. And just so I

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understand point number 1 on Page 8 of the 2 memo, we are eliminating the eligibility, which 3 means the eligibility is still available?

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MS. BOYER: The program as it exists -- so everything on this page, on the back page, is not part of the program right now. The program as it exists makes you ineligible for other Retail Enhancement grants or things if you participate in this completion grant program.

So one of the suggestions that one board member had at the workshop was the idea that we eliminate that restriction, and that's what staff was explaining; that -- the reason we kept it in was because we use the revenue to fund those other programs, and if we don't receive that revenue because we're counting it in an ROI and giving it out in the completion grant, then it's not really available for the other.

THE CHAIRMAN: Correct.

And so my comment there is, somebody is getting the benefit, but it's not the ultimate 22 23 tenant to the extent that the building owner is not the operator of that space. And so there's 24 either -- however you want to look at it,

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there's a level of risk for the tenant, or possibly now the developer is bearing an obligation to his tenants to shore up that gap to the extent that there is one.

MS. BOYER: Absolutely. So what you're doing is you're taking away the opportunity for the tenant to come in for certain things, but if the developer in the completion grant is either reducing the rent within the space to make up for that or is doing more of the tenant buildout to make up for that, they're going to have to produce the lease and have a tenant to be able to qualify.

And so the assumption is they're going to make up that economic gap for the tenant by whatever choice or action they want to take, and they'd be the recipient of the incentive associated for the retail.

MR. KELLEY: Mr. Chair, at the risk of getting too deep in the weeds and the underwriting methodology, I might add that when I look at a development and construction budget, when there is a tenant improvement line item, I move it down to the tangible personal property tax section, which is the case in the

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underwriting that I've been doing on this 2 project.

3 So there is some tenant improvement money in the total development cost for one of the 4 projects where I've been considering employment

6 of this approach. So it's not a hundred 7

percent lost; it's just down in the tangible 8 personal property tax, which is not as

beneficial to the TIF as the ad valorem 9

10 component is, but it's still positive consideration as well of that portion of their 11

12 development budget.

13 THE CHAIRMAN: But that's a landlord 14 obligation. That's not what the tenant could 15 be seeking outside of whatever the landlord is going to provide, which is not uncommon. 16

Oliver, correct me if I'm wrong.

18 It's not uncommon that a landlord, as part of his offering, to provide some -- some of 19 this, and then the tenant can come back in normally and can possibly earn an incentive? BOARD MEMBER BARAKAT: That's correct. 22

It's not uncommon.

23

24 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. I just, you know --25 I'm in favor of it. I just -- that's out there

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for -- for these developers that take advantage of this to consider.

3 So it sounds like at least one board member wants to make an amendment to the resolution. So do we need -- mechanically, if one of the attorneys will guide me here. 6

BOARD MEMBER GILLAM: They need to make a motion and someone needs to second it.

9 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Do we have an 10 existing motion?

11 BOARD MEMBER GILLAM: No. We have a 12 suggestion of maybe motions and maybe a second as part of a motion, so I think we should start 13 14 over and --

BOARD MEMBER BARAKAT: I make a motion to 15 amend the motion on the table to add Number 5 16 on the last page of the memorandum, and to add 17 the bullet on the top of Page 4 for the 18

definition of "substantial completion," and 19

replacing the word "vanilla" with "cold dark." 20 21 BOARD MEMBER GARRISON: Second.

22 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. We have a first and

23 a second on an amended -- okay. 24 So we're going to first vote on the 25 amendment, starting with Mr. Garrison.

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1	How do you vote?	1	BOARD MEMBER GARRISON: In favor.
2	BOARD MEMBER GARRISON: I'm in favor.	2	THE CHAIRMAN: And I, too, am in favor.
3	THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Gibbs.	3	So the amended resolution passes
4	BOARD MEMBER GIBBS: Can we have some	4	unanimously.
5	discussion, please?	5	Okay. That will conclude the CRA portion
6	"Dark" is a term of art. Please enlighten	6	of the meeting. I'll close that out.
7	us.	7	Before we start the DIA portion, we'll go
8	BOARD MEMBER BARAKAT: You're right.	8	back and ask Mr. Anderson if there are any
9	There are some industry definitions. It's	9	public comments.
10	the same with "vanilla shell."	10	MR. ANDERSON: No, sir. We have no cards
11	So cold dark is a much lower standard; the	11	and no hands up online.
12	developer would have to deliver the retail a	12	(The foregoing proceedings were adjourned
13	much less finished standard. It basically	13	at 2:27 p.m.)
14	means the suites are demised. The electric	14	
15	panel of a suite is basically ready for any	15	
16	buildout. It's a separated suite.	16	
17	So that's essentially a basic definition	17	
18	of cold dark shell. It's the minimum standard	18	
19	for construction delivery.	19	
20	BOARD MEMBER GIBBS: Thank you.	20	
21	After further discussion, I vote yes, in	21	
22	favor.	22	
23	THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Barakat, how do you	23	
24	vote?	24	
25	BOARD MEMBER BARAKAT: I'm in favor.	25	
	Diane M. Tropia, Inc., Post Office Box 2375, Jacksonville, FL 32203		Diane M. Tropia, Inc., Post Office Box 2375, Jacksonville, FL 32203
	(904) 821-0300		(904) 821-0300
	26		28
1	THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Worsham.	1	CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER
2	BOARD MEMBER WORSHAM: In favor.		
3	THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Saoud.	2	
4	BOARD MEMBER SAOUD: In favor.	3	STATE OF FLORIDA)
5	THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Gillam.)
6	BOARD MEMBER GILLAM: In favor of the	4	COUNTY OF DUVAL)
7	amendment.	5	,
8	THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Hassan.	6	
9	BOARD MEMBER HASSAN: In favor.	7	I, Diane M. Tropia, Florida Professional
10	THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. So the amendment	8	Reporter, certify that I was authorized to and did
11	passes.	9 10	stenographically report the foregoing proceedings and that the transcript is a true and complete record of my
12	Now we're going to go back and vote on	11	stenographic notes.
13	the	12	J - F
14	BOARD MEMBER GILLAM: The amended	13	
15	resolution.	14	
16	THE CHAIRMAN: the amended resolution.	15	DATED this 1st day of October 2023.
17	Let's change it up.	16 17	
18	Mr. Hassan, how do you vote?	18	Diane M. Tropia
19	BOARD MEMBER HASSAN: In favor.		Florida Professional Reporter
20	THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Gillam.	19	·
21	BOARD MEMBER GILLAM: In favor.	20	
22	BOARD MEMBER SAOUD: In favor.	21	
23	BOARD MEMBER WORSHAM: In favor.	22	
24	BOARD MEMBER BARAKAT: In favor.	23 24	
25	BOARD MEMBER GIBBS: In favor.	25	
25	BOARD MEMBER GIBBS: In favor. Diane M. Tropia, Inc., Post Office Box 2375, Jacksonville, FL 32203	25	Diane M. Tropia, Inc., Post Office Box 2375, Jacksonville, Fl. 32203
25		25	Diane M. Tropia, Inc., Post Office Box 2375, Jacksonville, FL 32203 (904) 821-0300

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CITY OF JACKSONVILLE

DOWNTOWN INVESTMENT AUTHORITY

BOARD MEETING

Proceedings held on Wednesday, September 20, 2023, commencing at 2:27 p.m., Jacksonville City Hall, Lynwood Roberts Room, 117 West Duval Street, Jacksonville, Florida, before Diane M. Tropia, FPR, a Notary Public in and for the State of Florida at Large.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

JIM CITRANO, Chair.
GEORGE SAOUD, Vice Chair.
OLIVER BARAKAT, Board Member.
CRAIG GIBBS, Board Member.
BRAXTON GILLAM, Board Member.
JOSHUA GARRISON, Board Member.
JOE HASSAN, Board Member.
CAROL WORSHAM, Board Member.

ALSO PRESENT:

LORI BOYER, DIA, Chief Executive Officer. GUY PAROLA, DIA, Operations Manager. STEVE KELLEY, DIA, Director of Development. JIMMY PEULSO, City Council Liaison. INA MEZINI, Strategic Initiatives Coordinator. RIC ANDERSON, Marketing and Communications. JOHN SAWYER, Office of General Counsel.

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old or new business. I don't know if you want to call to see if any board members do.

THE CHAIRMAN: Do any board members have anything to report?

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BOARD MEMBERS: (No response.)

MS. BOYER: We'll start with the CEO report.

Mr. Anderson, were you able to get the progress report loaded here since -- oh, we do. Look at that. Wonderful. I wasn't sure we would be able to accomplish that in the short term, but we have.

So for members of the audience, we don't have it on any of the other TVs. We will make this available for distribution. And this is just the photographic update for the board members of progress on various projects.

So the first project is Gateway Jax, which this morning, I think, some of you were able to attend the announcement and the ceremony that was held down next to the Porter House. And what was on display there -- you may know that they have already received DDRB final approval on the site plan for the nine-block area and --

Mr. Anderson.

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PROCEEDINGS

September 20, 2023

2:27 p.m.

THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Great.

Then we will move to the DIA portion of the meeting, starting with the approval of the August 16 DIA meeting minutes.

Any comments or questions on the minutes? BOARD MEMBER WORSHAM: I'll move to approve.

BOARD MEMBER SAOUD: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: We have a first and a

12 second.

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All in favor, say aye.

BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?
BOARD MEMBERS: (No response.)

THE CHAIRMAN: Then the minutes pass.

Again, I'll ask staff if we have anything

19 on consent.

MS. BOYER: No.

THE CHAIRMAN: We don't.

Okay. So I will go ahead, then, at this point, and hand it over to the CEO for her

monthly update or any old or new business.

MS. BOYER: Mr. Chair, I don't have any

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MR. ANDERSON: Sorry.

MS. BOYER: Okay. But you see down at the bottom that they're calling it Pearl Street or the Pearl Street District; something to that effect. And, in addition, we're discussing their plans for other property within the city. So that was a nice event this morning.

Next slide is Artist Walk. So Artist Walk is the skate park under the Fuller Warren Bridge. And you can see that -- bottom left, you see what it's supposed to look like when it's complete. And now can you see both the J and the X have arrived, and those are scaled features that are being installed right now. So progress is being made on that part.

Next.

One Riverside. We continue to see construction project -- progress with the TriBridge development at One Riverside. So I want to point that out on a monthly basis. It's pretty easy to see from month to month what's happening there and how that development is moving along.

Next is the Iguana Four Seasons. So we do have construction underway on the hotel and the Diane M. Tropia, Inc., Post Office Box 2375, Jacksonville, FL 32203

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office building, but there are also a few other things that are moving forward.

3 So we, as staff, and Parks staff and Public Works staff have been reviewing final 4 5 plans for the bulkhead and have been reviewing 6 plans for the marina support building, which 7 also went to DDRB, and have been reviewing 8 plans for the marina. So design efforts are going on on all of those elements that are 9 10 associated with the hotel and office building as well. And you can see cranes on site, work 11 going on with respect to the actual office building and hotel. 13

Next.

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Emerald Trail Model Mile. So this is the 15 16 segment from the Rail Yard District along Lee Street that terminates at Park Street. And we 17 continue to see progress and construction. A 18 little slow, I would say, but every month when 19 20 we look, another segment has been poured. The original completion date was scheduled for this 21 summer. I understand there is some kind of a 22 23 ceremonial opening scheduled for October. The last I've heard, it's now a December date for 24 final completion. So this fall still, Diane M. Tropia, Inc., Post Office Box 2375, Jacksonville, FL 32203

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hopefully still within 2023.

Riverside Arts Market turf. So over at RAM, those of you that may walk down to the waterfront, next to the Riverwalk, DIA funded, as part of our parks programming money, the installation of artificial turf in the area that was previously dirt on those terraces and was used as a seating area that -- they had a great yoga class there after it was installed, and very happy with it. It's being actively used. So it was used for seating, but it was one of those where you always got your hands dirty when you sat on it and whatnot, and this is a much more usable space this way. So it was a good use of our programming money to get

17 Next.

some of that in.

18 Brooklyn Park. So in -- Ric, has this 19 event happened or is happening?

MR. ANDERSON: It happened on Saturday,

21 yes.

22 MS. BOYER: It's happening on Saturday? 23

MR. ANDERSON: No. It's happened --

24 MS. BOYER: It happened last Saturday. 25 So there was an unveiling of an artist's

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work in Brooklyn Park where they created a mural on the existing court, kind of enlivening

3 the space. And unfortunately --

4 And, Ric, it may say there, but I can't 5 read it on the screen. Do you recall the artist's name? 6

7 MR. ANDERSON: I don't. I'm sorry.

8 MS. BOYER: My apologies to the artist that I'm not giving them credit for their work 9 10 in this space because it really is one of those nice things that we were able to accomplish and 11 12 that kind of helps enliven it.

Next is Artea. So this is on the 13 14 Southbank, next to the Kings Avenue station.

15 You see that the stair towers are now up, and

we're coming up vertical. Things start to move 16

rather more quickly once all the concrete is 17 in. So I mentioned this morning, for those of 18

you who were at the Gateway, we have a thousand 19

20 units under construction right now, which is --

21 kind of look back historically, our big target

was to try to get 300 a year, and the fact 22

23 that -- if you look at the TriBridge, 300-plus

units; the Artea, 300-plus units; the Doro 24

units that are under construction; the Lofts at

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Cathedral; town homes in LaVilla, I mean, we're

up to a thousand units that are under

3 construction, which is quite a milestone.

BOARD MEMBER GILLAM: Once the currently 4 under construction units are completed, do you

know how many we'll have downtown, total units? 6 MS. BOYER: I do not. I should know that 7

8 answer. I know in my speaking engagements, I

continually talk about the fact that we have 9

10 7,490 or 7,500 residents downtown right now,

11 and that when we add these thousand units --12

BOARD MEMBER GILLAM: (Inaudible.) MS. BOYER: Right, that will get us very

13 close to our 10,000 number, but that doesn't 14 tell me the number of units we have right now. 15

So my guess is it's probably 6- to 6,500, 16 17 somewhere in there. Probably right around 6-.

MR. KELLEY: (Inaudible.)

19 MS. BOYER: Mr. Kelley thinks it's around 4,400 --20

21 MR. KELLEY: Today, plus the thousand.

22 MS. BOYER: -- units.

23 Plus the thousand. So -- okay.

MS. HARDWICK: Forty-six --24 25

(Simultaneous speaking.)

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1 MS. BOYER: Is that right?

2 Oh, Kat's here. We should have just asked

3 Kat. Kat is the keeper of the data.

4 Next slide.

Lofts at Cathedral under construction, oneof those additional residential projects underconstruction right now.

8 Next.

Home2 Suites. You now see the exterior ispretty well complete and they're now working oninterior finish.

12 Next.

The Catherine Street extension. So work continues to progress. Curbs have now been poured and making progress on that one. We're hopeful we're going to be able to give you a completion date on that one soon and know when that one is going to be.

19 Next.

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Riverfront Plaza. Work continues there, but at the moment all the work is related to the relocation of Independent Drive in the corner of the intersection of Hogan Street, where the old Sister City parcel was that we reacquired.

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1 BOARD MEMBER GILLAM: So do we know when 2 Water Street's going to reopen?

MS. BOYER: When Water Street is going to reopen? I don't have that information, but we can certainly ask Public Works and try to find out.

This is one of the challenges that we have in the sense of not being directly in contact with the contractor and that this all goes through Public Works, is that I have limited schedule information and it often changes, and then, you know, we're kind of playing catch-up on it.

But just a few things that were newsworthy items over the last month, so a whole variety of topics.

Players Grille is planning a rooftop speakeasy on the Southbank in the old Cancer Society building.

The Hanania Automotive building on the Southbank is getting some major renovations to it.

UF leaders tie Number 1 ranking in newreport to plan Jacksonville graduate center.

And then work beginning on Doro's rooftop Diane M. Tropia, Inc., Post Office Box 2375, Jacksonville, FL 32203 (904) 821-0300 1 pool. We tried to get some good pictures of

2 that but have limited drone and aerial

3 photography to show you the pictures of that,

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4 but work is moving forward on that.

And a couple more in *Jacksonville Today*here. The Mayo Clinic space that you all voted
on parking for in the Ed Ball Building over a
year ago is finally opening to the public.

9 Hardwicks Bar. Hardwicks Bar is very10 close to opening, and we're hoping that we can11 announce an opening date on that very shortly.

And then, Ric, you're going to have to read the last one for me at an angle here.

BOARD MEMBER GIBBS: JSO, the substation.

MS. BOYER: Yeah. The Florida Bluebuilding, where they have leased space to JSO,not just for a substation, for a substantial

18 occupancy that they were previously using in

19 the FDLE building downtown.

20 So that's the picture version of my 21 update.

22 From the tech standpoint, a couple of 23 things I really want to bring to your 24 attention.

So on the mayoral transition. All the Diane M. Tropia, Inc., Post Office Box 2375, Jacksonville, FL 32203 (904) 821-0300

when 1 transition committees have wrapped up now.

2 They are submitting their reports to the

3 mayor's office, but are continuing to work. We

4 made a number of recommendations about how we

5 could streamline permit applications, do

6 some -- make some modifications from a process

7 standpoint that would increase sufficiency,

8 both DDRB and DIA level. And so we are working

9 through the implementation of those on our own.

From a budget standpoint, the '23/'24

budgets are moving forward. They go to Council

12 for a final vote next Tuesday night. The CIP

13 budget was included -- amended to include funds

14 needed to finish St. Johns River Park,

15 Friendship Fountain, and the Performing Arts

16 Center as well as Hogan Street. So that

17 Emerald Trail segment on Hogan Street did not

18 include additional funding for Riverfront

19 Plaza, Shipyards West, or Met Park.

So some of those major elements did get into CIP. Some of those will have to be additions next year if they are added.

From a staffing standpoint, good news, and especially in light of the scramble on today's

25 meeting. We had a number applicants for the
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admin position. We've gone through testing.

- 2 We have 14 people who passed testing. And so
- 3 we're starting the interview process on those coming up. And hopefully before we have 4
- 5 another meeting, we'll have a new admin hired.
- 6 So we'll have some help with that.

7 Legislation for specialty zones. So I've

8 been mentioning this to you. Those of you who

- may not have heard about it, specialty zones 9
- 10 are a State statute-authorized way to have open
- carry in certain limited circumstances, and 11
- 12 Tampa has it on their Riverwalk. And after a
- 13 Chamber trip to Tampa, everyone wanted it on
- 14 the Jacksonville Riverwalk. So OGC has now
- drafted that legislation for us. We are going 15
- 16 to have, at SIC next month, a presentation on
- it. You'll hear from Build Up Downtown and 17
- Downtown Vision, both of whom have been engaged 18
- 19 in the process, working through it with us. We
- 20 may have JSO representatives there, or they
- 21 will have met with JSO, but we want to bring it
- to you next month at the board meeting before 22
- 23 we file the legislation with City Council. But
- that's moving forward. 24

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Parking. So after the St. Vincent's

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- garage collapse, obviously there's been a lot
- of interest in and inquires about the status of
- 3 various parking garages. You will be happy to
- know that on the three CRA-managed garages that 4
- 5 we acquired from MPS, we had due diligence and
- structural analysis reports done before we took 6
- 7 them over. We indicated various routine
- 8 repairs that should be made now and should be
- made on a regular basis. We set up a reserve 9
- 10 fund for doing them on a regular basis, which
- 11 is required. We entered into a contract for
- 12 the repairs that were considered things we

should do right now. 13

> One of the garages is complete. One of the garages is underway. A third one is following. So on all of the ones that we're managing as the CRA, we're doing exactly what everyone should be doing that owns a parking

19 garage. We've also done a lot of research on the 20

City-owned garages, and I will say there was a

22 structural analysis done on Yates, and Yates is

- 23 undergoing repairs right now. So we're still
- looking at when the last reports were done on
- 25 some of the other City-owned properties to be

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able to provide that information and work with 2 Public Works on next steps.

3 Professional services. We now have our

real estate consulting and research contract 4

5 underway. Southern Group is doing it, and they are, right now, working for us on updating 6

7 performance measures.

8 So you know our BID Plan has performance 9 measures and it has all kinds of data points

10 we're supposed to maintain. We have now got somebody doing that so that we will have that 11

12 kind of on a regular basis. Every six or

twelve months, we'll be able to say how we're 13

14 doing on our targets.

We have also started work with them on 15 preparing for disposition of a couple of other 16 17 City-owned parcels that are still in our

inventory. 18

19 We also have entered into a professional

20 services agreement with Lewis, Longman &

21 Walker, who's helping us with the CRA plan

update. So we have some cleanup that we have 22

23 to do in it as a result of some new legislative

24 changes from Tallahassee, where we have to

25 conform the plan to --

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1 (Councilman Peluso enters the

> 2 proceedings.)

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3 MS. BOYER: -- the changes in the statute.

So these are more technical, almost scrivener's 4 5 in nature.

Welcome, Council Member Peluso.

7 And we -- those are -- Brenna Durden is

working on that effort. We've already had a

kickoff, and she started reviewing. 9

10 We have contracted with the Cultural

11 Council to do the downtown art plan. We now

12 have that contract at hand, and they're

starting work. 13

> So a number of these that we've been telling you we're going to do now finally have contracts and they're finally underway. So

17 that's a good thing.

> Market feasibility for the restaurants in the food hall is underway. We're expecting preliminary reports back on that in October, and we have a couple of meetings with them.

22 Nightly riverfront projection show. Work 23 continues with the design team. Ina and I saw kind of a preliminary run-through the other 24

25 night; commented on the Florida dear looked

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more like elk and didn't look like they

2 belonged in Florida, which I knew some of you

3 would pick up on and know that that was an

incorrect representation. But they're getting 4

5 there. I mean, it's a great effort.

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And Shipyards West design at the food hall and the restaurant are currently at 60 percent, and a new RFP is going out on that to finalize the design, but we kind of have to get a handle on what the ultimate capital budget is before we kind of move to the next step on design.

Capital project updates. The Park Street bids came in substantially higher than budget.

14 So this is the Park Street design that we

15 designed and bid two years ago, had enough

funds for, then we redesigned it at the request 16

of the developer to make a few changes, then we 17

18 were ready to rebid it and then we redesigned

19 it again at the request of JTA to make the lane

20 width wider for their buses, and now we put it

21 back out on the street and now we're

substantially short of budget. No surprise 22

23 with time lapse and increasing costs, but -- so

this is going to be an effort to try to locate 24

and secure those funds so we can get it

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underway. It is fully designed. We have a bid

to start construction. This is something that

3 is truly shovel-ready and could start. Now we

just need to get the additional capital funding 4

to be able to do it. 5

6 BOARD MEMBER GILLAM: How far are we 7 behind budget?

8 MS. BOYER: Four million. Not

9 insignificant.

Catherine Street we already talked about.

Riverfront Plaza we already talked about.

Hogan Street. So the Hogan Street Emerald

Trail length that had been in abeyance for a 13

14 while, that contract, design build contract for

downtown has now been awarded to Baker 15

16 Construction. We had a kickoff meeting with

them. They're working. And we have another 17

meeting set -- I think it's next week -- with 18

19

Public Works where we're really kind of going

to get underway on Hogan Street as the top 20

21 priority. So we're back on track and we're now

22 back in the effort there.

Two-way on Forsyth and Adams. The bid has

been awarded to EltonAlan, and I think we're 25

waiting for a contract from OGC. That one, we Diane M. Tropia, Inc., Post Office Box 2375, Jacksonville, FL 32203

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It has been awarded. We should be able to get

under construction. We're looking for a

kickoff meeting probably in the next month. So 4

are within our budget. We have a contractor.

5 that one's moving.

We did have a kickoff with Baker on 6 Liberty Street and Forsyth and Adams,

8 Phase 2. Remember when we were talking about

budget and you all expressed the desire to get 9

10 Forsyth and Adams, Phase 2, going as soon as

possible? So we've got Baker working on that 11

12 simultaneously with the construction of

13 Phase 1. So it's -- a continuous process is 14

our goal.

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McCoys. Public Works has a bid that they either have accepted or are prepared to accept and going through the process on the mouth of McCoys, and they're still on target to start construction October 1. So we're ready for

20 that mouth project which coordinates with the

21 One Riverside project to get underway.

BOARD MEMBER GILLAM: If it starts on 22 23 time, what's the expected completion of that

24 project, do we know?

> MS. BOYER: So the new expected Diane M. Tropia, Inc., Post Office Box 2375, Jacksonville, FL 32203

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substantial completion of the creek relocation

is March of '25, with October of '25 being the

3 final completion.

> BOARD MEMBER GILLAM: How far behind does that place us with our contractual obligation

with the developer? 6

7 MS. BOYER: Over a year. The developer is 8 certainly expressing concern over the costs he is incurring as a result of that. 9

From a development update standpoint, just

10 11 a couple of things to update you on. 12 Ambassador remains in default and the

extension is sitting at City Council and is 13

deferred. Should have got the number from 14 Mr. Crescimbeni. He was telling me that there 15

were a number of additional liens in the order 16

of a million dollars filed on the property. So 17

the magnitude of liens is significant, and we 18

don't have an answer in terms of the resolution 19

as to what is going to be happening on that one 20 21 at the moment.

22

MOSH. The RFP for the design firm who's 23 going to design the park around the building itself has been scored and was awarded to 24 25 SCAPE, and the City signed off on that, and

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they're beginning work on that part of it.

2 You'll recall that their deadline for their

3 fundraising, 40 million of private, and it

could include State or federal grants but not 4

5 City grants, but that 40 million deadline is

6 December 31st. So they're working toward that 7

December 31st date.

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We talked about the Gateway project.

9 And Related has been in town the last 10

couple of weeks. They are trying to make changes in their pro forma and the documents 11

12 they're providing to get to an ROI of 1, which

13 we have told them is the threshold. If they

14 can get there, then we would be bringing it to

15 the board in potentially October. My concern

at this point is, since they are still trying 16

to figure out how to get there, it may not make 17

it for October. That really only gives us 18

19 about two weeks before we start having

20 documents distributed to you.

> Pending legislation. The Ambassador extension deferred.

23 Then I mentioned we have a second

amendment to One Riverside that is pending 24

before Council. That's the extension of times

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that -- for both the developer and DIA.

A second amendment on Elements or Preston

3 Hollow's development on the Southbank. This

was increasing the amount of the REV Grant to 4

5 reflect the increased cost. No change in

percentage, no change in duration. 6

And also some other updates on the number

8 of contractors and things.

9 The Regions funding appropriation for 10 their historic renovation of their building has

now been filed as legislation, and we have a 11

12 Chapter 55 amendment that we took through the

board that is going to -- because it has been 13

14 filed with MBRC, it will be going to MBRC and

15 our legislation filed, hopefully, two weeks

16 from now on that one.

BOARD MEMBER GILLAM: I'm sorry I keep

interrupting. A question about Elements. 18

19 Since we're now in '23 and they have not

20 yet had any completion events that would

21 justify the tax, the REV Grant payments, and

we've got less than 20 years before the end of 22

23 the existing CRA, does that effectively reduce

the total amount they can recover under the REV

25 Grant because they won't have 20 years at

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75 percent anymore?

2 MS. BOYER: As a practical matter, it

could. But to the extent that their documents

show the values of the property are worth

substantially more than what was projected when

23

24

they initially were doing the projections over 6

7 20 years, they think that they can pay out

8 within the remaining life of the REV Grant.

9 So yes, the term of the REV Grant isn't

10 20 years from whenever you get to your first

completion. The term of the REV Grant 11

12 terminates, in that case, in 20- --

BOARD MEMBER GILLAM: -41. 13

MS. BOYER: Yeah. And it terminates then.

BOARD MEMBER GILLAM: So it now --15

MS. BOYER: But they believe they can get 16

to the maximum indebtedness within that time 17

18 frame.

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BOARD MEMBER GILLAM: But they're asking

20 to increase the indebtedness, right?

21 MS. BOYER: Well, they are, and they're

22 saying -- and their documents are showing that

23 they think, based on the valuation, that

24 they'll pay out in that time frame, which, from

25 our standpoint, it -- it doesn't really matter

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if it's the same amount we agreed to and it

pays out that -- because it would have paid out

3 faster anyway.

BOARD MEMBER GILLAM: Still a 75 percent 4

REV Grant? 5

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6 MS. BOYER: It's still a -- exactly.

That just means our 25 percent is much

8 higher on an annual basis than theirs is.

9 BOARD MEMBER GILLAM: Thank you.

10 MS. BOYER: Any other questions?

11 BOARD MEMBER GARRISON: Through the Chair

12 to Ms. Boyer, could you remind me what the --

what aspect of the McCoys Creek mouth might be 13

14 holding up the construction moving forward? I

don't recall if it's permits or design or ... 15

16 MS. BOYER: So the challenge with the

17 McCoys Creek mouth project, there's really two

18 elements to this. Okay?

19 If you go back to the developer's original

project design, their original retail design 20

21 did not encroach into the area where the

22 current creek is. Their retail is -- the way

23 they have their grocer located and the parking located and everything was all staying away

25 from where the current creek is. As they

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progressed through design, negotiating leases

2 with potential grocers, et cetera, their design

then had a backloading entrance that kind of 3

4 came in off of May Street on the top of the old

5 creek. That requires FDOT approval for going

6 under, the construction going under the

7 bridges, and required completion of the creek

8 rerouting before we could get access to the

9 loading dock.

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So as a result, the long delay was getting the approval from FDOT. And until we could get approval from FDOT, we couldn't start construction of the creek relocation project. And now we have, at least at the moment, a gentleman's agreement. I think we're still awaiting documentation. Mr. Sawyer may know that we have something in hand that I haven't yet seen. But we've been assured by DOT in

18 19 Tallahassee and everyone that it's coming and

20 that it's just paperwork at this point.

But from that perspective, we are still 22 moving forward, and they are saying we can move forward with an October 1 commencement date on

the creek work. That means, though, that now 24

the opening of the grocer is also delayed

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because the grocer would have to have that rear access to their loading dock.

We've offered to provide a temporary road that will give them access six months guicker, but it isn't the same as having their final permanent road, and the six months is only six months. They still would have to access from the main Riverside Avenue entrance if they were going to begin operation a year earlier. And they could. I mean, in theory they could, but

that would impact the design of the building. So that's why one thing became dependent

12 13 on another and triggered the delay.

BOARD MEMBER GARRISON: Thank you, ma'am.

THE CHAIRMAN: Go ahead.

BOARD MEMBER BARAKAT: Through the Chair

presentation. The Shipyards West and 18

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Jacksonville riverfront parks, I assume the 20

portion is not under development, not related

to Ms. Boyer, I think you've already seen the

to the CIP. So the question is, to what extent 21

does that absence slow down those projects? 22

23 MS. BOYER: It certainly is a concern that

we have. I think that, you know, there are two

25 ways to approach it. I'm going to take

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Shipyards West in particular. You design the

entire park to a lower budget number, and then

it doesn't slow anything down, but it is a much 4 different park.

The alternative is you continue to design with the vision that we've had for the park,

7 but then we have to secure funding for it

before you can build that Phase 2. It's also a 8

9 question of, you know, the -- are you wasting

10 design costs if you're designing to a budget 11

that you can't build.

So we do have meetings with the administration. It's a topic that is, you know, under discussion, and we're trying to figure out the best way to move forward with that. The same thing is true with Phase 2 of

16 Riverfront Plaza. 17

18 These were not requesting funding this 19 year. These were future year funding requests.

20 So they weren't direct asks for money right

21 now. But to the extent they're not in the

22 future year of the CIP, it's somewhat risky to

23 design to something right now that doesn't have

a future programmed budget for it, especially 24 25

in light of other investments the City is

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evaluating right now in terms of geography and 1

> 3 that factor into the bigger picture.

4 We don't want it to be an either/or, that you can't -- if you do those, you can't do

location, stadium costs, all of those things

6 these. And we also, from our perspective, want

to be prudent about how we spend money. So the 7

8 conversation Mr. Parola and I have been having

9 with the people evaluating the viability of the

food hall is, I don't think it makes sense for 10

us to spend money on the food hall if we're not 11

12 building the Shipyards West Park that we

13 envisioned. So we'll be reprogramming that

14 money if it looks like it's not going to

15 materialize.

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BOARD MEMBER BARAKAT: So thank you for that.

18 So a follow-up question: So prior to dumbing down these designs, will this board

19 20 have a say on that when a decision is made or

21 is that another (inaudible) decision?

22 MS. BOYER: I don't know that. I mean,

23 certainly to the extent that we're talking

24 about the CRA portion of those projects,

25 absolutely you would be involved in any

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decision on the CRA portion that involves the 2 restaurants and the food hall and those areas.

As far as the park design itself, that's really the City's decision, Council's decision in terms of budget. But from -- we've been

engaged in those conversations, and I

definitely feel like the board's input is relevant in them.

I mean, my messaging, from what I've heard 9 10 from you in past meetings is that, having taken these out of developable land capacity and 11 decided that it was a good choice to make them

12 13 park space from a resiliency standpoint but

14 also from furthering other investment

15 opportunities, we don't get that benefit out of

16 it if it is simply a passive greenspace. We only get that benefit if it truly becomes a 17

destination park. And so we have to figure out 18

19 how to get there.

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20 BOARD MEMBER BARAKAT: Thank you for that. 21 I wholeheartedly agree with what you just

22 said. 23 Last comment, Mr. Chair.

24 Most administrations that provide a

25 liaison to this board come into these meetings

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with a conduit between the board and the

administration. Has this current

3 administration provided that?

MS. BOYER: Well, Ms. Norris is in the 4 audience. So I don't know if she's officially designated, but we'll take her.

MS. NORRIS: I'm here.

BOARD MEMBER BARAKAT: Okay.

9 All right. I just wanted to make sure

there was someone in the mayor's office 10

designated to come into these meetings, listen 11

12 to the dialogue, and communicate important topics accordingly, so thank you. And so 13

14 you've heard how important these parks are to 15 us.

BOARD MEMBER WORSHAM: I would just agree

17 with Mr. Barakat. And I think it's incumbent

on all of us, as well as staff -- and I know 18

19 we've got some folks listening. I see Nancy

20 Powell on Zoom and some other folks in the

21 community doing the enormous amount of public

input and effort that's gone into division and 22

23 the preliminary design and planning for our

waterfront. I hope that we all continue to

25 push the agenda from our standpoint and

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encourage the public to do that as well. I

think it's a pivotal point for our downtown and

I don't want to see that momentum lost. So I

hope that we can find a way to get that funding 4

5 into the future year of CIP.

MS. BOYER: What I can share you with 6 you -- for those of you who were at the Gateway

8 event this morning, the mayor hit again on

infrastructure being her priority and how she 9

10 wants to invest in infrastructure and see

infrastructure completed and implemented during 11

12 her term. And to the extent that it does spawn

13 further investment and other development, I

14 mean, I don't disagree with that principle, but

15 then we've got to fund them to get them done.

BOARD MEMBER WORSHAM: And just to be 16 17 clear, green infrastructure is also -- the

18 parks are green infrastructure. So I don't

19 want everybody to hear the word

20 "infrastructure" and just think roads and

21 sewer, which we need, but we need these

waterfront parks to continue on. We don't want 22

23 to lose that momentum.

24 MS. BOYER: Well, they're part of the

25 whole resiliency effort --

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1 BOARD MEMBER WORSHAM: Exactly.

MS. BOYER: -- to the riverfront.

3 BOARD MEMBER GILLAM: I just briefly want

4 to add a comment.

The one that we've heard over and over 5 again -- I don't believe it -- is that these 6

7 park programming opportunities will increase

8 the value of downtown and property, which is

frankly, you know, the root of what our goal 9

and responsibility is, helping, you know, where 10

11 there's a gap -- a gap in financing, to push

12 the projects over the line so they get built

and we increase the tax base, so we can do 13

14 things for downtown.

15 And, you know, we're in a difficult time now where -- between capital costs and -- and 16

expenses of materials, we've seen a lull. 17

18 We've seen actually a half step back in some of

19 the projects we were hoping to move forward.

It seems like -- and I've kind of been excited 20

21 by the fact that we're moving these park

22 projects forward with the hope that when they

23 are complete and the market comes back around

that maybe the gaps aren't as large when it 24

comes to some of the other development projects Diane M. Tropia, Inc., Post Office Box 2375, Jacksonville, FL 32203

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that we want to see move forward because the 2 increase in value will be there because the park projects have been completed and people 3

want to come downtown and want to be downtown.

4 5 I mean, I think they work together. We've 6 always said they work together. And I think 7 this is the time to move the projects forward. 8 Especially when the market comes back, we have more excitement by the development 9 10 opportunities and maybe a smaller gap. 11

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

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At the risk of piling on here, I was going to ask pretty much the same question that Oliver asked. But this is an enormous issue, and I know it boils down to money.

And, first of all, Councilman Peluso,

thank you for being here. It was good timing. But, you know, we have a lot of headwinds out there and we have the private sector developers

19 20 that are struggling to get their deals to

21 pencil out. We're being asked to find money to

their projects to help shore up their gap. The 22

23 reality of it is the City has a gap with its

budget too. And I believe these public spaces, 24

these public parks in particular that -- not

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just this board and staff, but the community -and we had a community workshop four months

3 ago, five months ago. I think there was

something like 400 community people that came 4

5 out that weren't just there to look at pretty

pictures, but they were giving input, and we 6

7 had different departments of the City that are

8 committed to making those public spaces, you

9 know, first class.

10

11 12

13

14

15

16

17

And the idea of settling for two riverfront parks that aren't, you know, of the potential that we want them to be would be horribly disappointing and a huge mistake. And so, you know -- so my opinion is we keep going with the plan and then ask City Council and the mayor's office to really think about prioritizing the public infrastructure component of downtown development. And if that

18 19 means that, you know, a private developer maybe

20 has to put his project on the shelf for a

21 little bit, I'm fine with that.

22 I think that that public infrastructure is 23 really, at the end of the day, the catalyst.

And so I can't underscore the importance of

25 funding those two parks.

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1 Thank you.

2 And I'll go ahead and consider that my 3 chairman's report.

Councilman Peluso.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER PELUSO: Thank you, Chair.

35

36

6 As the Council liaison and with us being days away from budget talks -- our final budget

8 meeting is Tuesday, as I'm sure you all know --

I'll make sure the message is received in front 9

10 of Council.

As the City Council member for District 7, 11 12 which encompasses downtown, I can tell you that I speak with -- I almost called you 13

14 Councilman -- the chief executive, CEO Boyer,

15 every month, and we talked about this very

issue last time we sat down. I brought it up 16

17 to members of the mayor's office, and I intend

18 to take action on it on Tuesday.

19 So not as a liaison but as the Council 20 member for this area, I couldn't agree more. I 21 think these public spaces are some of our most

valuable real estate and it only makes our 22

23 downtown and our city better if we invest in

them, and we must. And it can't just be, oh, 24

well, the renderings that we saw are not what

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5

we're going to get. I'm pretty hopeful for

that. Again, speaking from personal

3 experience.

4 Thanks.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

6 Before we close the meeting, Mr. Anderson

7 tells me there is a public comment. So I'm

8 going to go ahead and allow that.

9 Mr. Anderson.

10 MR. ANDERSON: Yeah. Nancy Powell raised 11 her hand, and I believe she is unmuted.

12 Ms. Powell. Ms. Powell, can you hear us? 13 (No response.)

14 MR. ANDERSON: All right. I never heard 15 her reply.

16 THE CHAIRMAN: I wish I could channel my 17 inner Ron Moody and give a pep talk, but ...

18 Thanks to all the board members. We have

19 some transitions and reappointments coming, 20 maybe a new board member here soon. But thanks

21 to everybody for the commitment. It is a lot

22 of work, and I appreciate everybody's effort.

23 So thank you very much.

24 With that, I will adjourn the meeting.

25 Thank you.

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Downtown Investment Authority Uncertified Condensed Copy

(The foregoing proceedings were adjourned at 3:08 p.m.) Diane M. Tropia, Inc., Post Office Box 2375, Jacksonville, FL 32203 (904) 821-0300 CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER STATE OF FLORIDA) COUNTY OF DUVAL) I, Diane M. Tropia, Florida Professional Reporter, certify that I was authorized to and did stenographically report the foregoing proceedings and that the transcript is a true and complete record of my stenographic notes. DATED this 1st day of October 2023. Diane M. Tropia Florida Professional Reporter Diane M. Tropia, Inc., Post Office Box 2375, Jacksonville, FL 32203 (904) 821-0300

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