

LA JUNTA URBAN RENEWAL AUTHORITY

CALL TO ORDER: The La Junta Urban Renewal Authority Board of Commissioners held a Regular Meeting on Thursday, April 25, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Bennett.

Board Members Present

Nancy Bennett
Christine Coffield
Toni Madrid
Erin Monroy
Randall Roberson
Lily Sweikert – via Zoom

Absent

Joe Ayala
Trevor Herasingh
Daniel Horton

**Subject to approval at the
May 23, 2024
Urban Renewal Meeting**

Also present: Cynthia Nieb, Economic/Urban Renewal Director
Melanie Scofield, City Clerk
Aimee Hill, Building Code Official
Ben Mason, La Junta
Bette McFarren, RF Gazette

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:

There was no citizen participation.

MINUTES: March 28, 2024

Chairperson Bennett asked if there were any corrections or additions to be made to the March 28, 2024 minutes. Hearing none, a motion was made by Toni Madrid, seconded by Christine Coffield that the minutes for March 28, 2024 be approved as published. The motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS: March 2024

The 2024 budget is \$456,000.00 less \$1,758.22 in expenses and \$8,250.00 in encumbrance leaving a remaining budget of \$445,991.78.

Chairperson Bennett asked if there were any questions or corrections regarding the March 2024 financial statements. Hearing none, a motion was made by Christine Coffield, seconded by Erin Monroy, that the financial statements for March 2024 be approved as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS:

A. Plaza Building

Chairperson Bennett: There are no updates.

B. LJ URA Grant/Loan Update

Cynthia Nieb: Will be at the library again this Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. There are three individuals who will submit an application before May 1st. Cynthia has been coaching them on what they need.

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NEW BUSINESS

A. Urban Renewal Director:

1. The Colorado Business Committee for the Arts (CBCA) wants to come to la Junta in June or July to have a gathering to get the eastern part of the state involved in the creative economy.
2. Received the Starburst award for having one of the best Colorado Lottery generated projects.
3. Further discussion with the Colorado Health Foundation about possibly doing a strategic plan along Highway 50 and the downtown to determine if and how the buildings are being utilized or need rehabbed. It would also include the infrastructure above and below the ground.

B. Governing Body Comments:

1. Erin Monroy: Asked Cynthia if there was any news on the SBDC.

Cynthia Nieb: Met a new representative from Rocky Ford, MJ Guzman. Talked about having presentations on how to start a business. Two will be in English and two will be in Spanish. Topics include: business plan writing, business feasibility, legalities of the business, quick books, website development, e-commerce, social media, access to capital, loan packaging and business grants.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:22 p.m.

Melanie R. Scofield, City Clerk

Nancy Bennett, Chairperson