

## CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE

### Neighborhood Grants Funding Panel June 19, 2006

The Neighborhood Grants Funding Panel met in their second session Monday, June 19, 2006, at 9 a.m. in the de Aviles Room at City Hall. The meeting was called to order by Paul Williamson, Director of Public Affairs, and the following were present:

#### **Roll Call:**

Beth Upchurch, Chair  
John Danahy  
Becky Greenberg  
Erica Jones  
Rai Schwecke

Commissioner Errol Jones\*  
Paul K. Williamson, Director, Public Affairs  
Cathy DuPont, Public Affairs

---

## **2. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS**

Mr. Williamson gave the panel a brief outline of what had transpired since their last meeting and the City Commission meeting of May 22, 2006.

Cathy DuPont stated that the two neighborhood associations submitting grants were Lighthouse Neighborhood Association and St. Augustine North Davis Shores Neighborhood Association.

Mr. Williamson said the City Commission stated it was adhering to its first requirement that the associations maintain the 'bricks and mortar' criteria for a grant; extended the period for submittal of grants; and approved the two grants from Nelmar Terrace Neighborhood Association and Old Town Association, Inc., as submitted and reviewed by the panel at its April 26, 2006, meeting. Further, Old Town Association had completed its project and Nelmar Terrace was preparing for the city to proceed when equipment becomes available to perform the work.

All the existing neighborhood associations who did not submit the first opportunity including the two neighborhood associations which were not approved, were sent a letter, emailed and telephoned encouraging them to submit an application for the second round of the neighborhood grant program.

## **3. St. Augustine North Davis Shores Neighborhood Association (SANDS)**

Since there was a possibility that a representative from the Lighthouse Neighborhood Association would attend for an explanation of its grant, the panel decided to address the St. Augustine North Davis Shores Neighborhood Association first rather than in the order as presented in their book.

Ms. Schwecke asked if the city had any guidelines for the type of bike rack requested. Mr. Williamson responded by saying he was not sure but was sure that the City would approve whatever was appropriate. Further, Mr. Williamson said he drove by the site but concluded that the neighborhood could determine where the bike rack would be placed.

There was a brief discussion of the validity of the project to purchase and install a bike rack at Oglethorpe Park with panel members pointing out that the project was "tangible, physical assets or physical improvements to a public space" according to both the application and the staff review summary.

**Rai Schwecke made a motion to approve the application and Becky Greenberg seconded the motion.**

**By unanimous voice vote the motion carried.**

### **3. B/ General Discussion on Other Projects Discussed by the SANDS NA**

Mr. Williamson remarked that the association has been very diligent to attempt to meet qualifications of the grant with their needs and desires for the neighborhood.

#### **4. Lighthouse Neighborhood Association**

Mr. Williamson stated that the St. Augustine Uptown Neighborhood Association received a grant last year for the placement of a message board at the corner of Pine and San Marco Ave.

Last year the Lighthouse Neighborhood Association (LNA) received a grant for a children's dome at the Lighthouse Park and the placement of this year's grant for a message board would be nearby the dome.

Chair Upchurch questioned who decides what needs to be placed on the message boards.

---

\*Commissioner Errol Jones arrived at 9:12 a.m.

Mr. Williamson stated the message boards have a lock and key and SAUNA has yet to fully utilize its board. Chair Upchurch stated messages such as lost cats and notes etc. could be placed on the board. Mr.

Williamson stated that SAUNA chose to put 'doggie poop' bags on their message board.

Mr. Williamson stated the message board that SAUNA placed would require a minimum of upkeep unless vandals destroyed it.

**Chair Upchurch asked if a motion was in order and Mr. Danahy made the motion to approve Lighthouse Park Neighborhood Association grant which was seconded by Rai Schwecke.**

**By unanimous voice vote the motion carried.**

### **5. Other SANDS projects**

Mr. Danahy was asked what other projects the SANDS had been pursuing.

Mr. Danahy, a board member of SANDS, stated their board discussed different projects but the one project that everyone seemed to like was uniform numbers for the houses in the area. A grant could pay one-half the cost of numbers with the homeowner paying the remaining one-half the cost. It would be on a first come, first serve basis.

**6. Mr. Danahy asked what will happen to the funds which were remaining from the \$10,000 set aside for the neighborhood grants.**

Mr. Williamson responded that the remaining amount is approximately \$4,000.00 from this year's grant. He stated that the panel could make a recommendation that the funds be rolled over.

Mr. Danahy stated that it was possible that the City Commission would not fund the grants next year.

Mr. Williamson stated that the neighborhoods have demonstrated that they can get things done.

He further stated that he would pursue the possibility of a rollover of the funds from the staff position.

Mr. Williamson stated there are now 11 neighborhood associations which applications might be received, each one with different needs to help themselves.

**John Danahy made a motion to approve the recommendation to the City Commission that the balance from this year's grants be rolled over into any other funds that the Commission may appropriate for the neighborhood grants next year. The motion was seconded by Rai Schwecke.**

**By unanimous voice vote the motion carried.**

## **5. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:17am.