

**CITY OF COLUMBIA
ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
MEETING REPORT
OCTOBER 30, 2012 – 9:00 A.M.
LINCOLN STREET GARAGE CONFERENCE ROOM
820 WASHINGTON STREET**



The Columbia City Council conducted an Economic and Community Development Committee Meeting on Tuesday, October 30, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. at the Lincoln Street Parking Garage, 820 Washington Street, Columbia, South Carolina. The Honorable Sam Davis (Chair) called the meeting to order at 9:12 a.m. The Honorable Leona Plough and The Honorable Moe Baddourah were present.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

1. Façade Improvement Program proposed Code Amendments

Mrs. Gerry Lynn Hall and Ms. Tina Herbert, Community Development Liaison and Office of Business Opportunities Director gave an overview of the 1990 Façade Program Guideline Modifications.

It was the consensus of the Committee for staff to outline these recommendations and to get clarity on the questions including if security cameras are eligible to businesses in the façade loan program.

2. Commercial Revolving Loan Fund proposed Code Amendments

Mr. Rich Schedler and Ms. Caroline Watson, members of the CRLF Board discussed a memo that was sent to City Manager Steve Gantt addressing their role as Board and some concerns they have with the City. Listed below are the concerns:

- Lack of clear lending and risk standards for loan application approval decisions.
- Failure by the City to follow federal grant guidelines resulting in the suspension of lending from the EDA CRLF.
- Poor management of the existing loan portfolio.
- Lack of a comprehensive marketing/information plan leading to ongoing concerns that only those who are connected are aware of the loan programs and areas of the City that have a greater need for economic development assistance are left out.
- Concern of the level of authority vested in the OBO Director.

These concerns were discussed Mr. Schedler asked if the number of city staff on the board can be reduced from two (2) to one (1) to make the voting process fair. Chairman Davis said they will take this into consideration and get back to the Board with their decision.

The decision was made by the Committee for staff to come back to the Committee to review the proposed amendments to the Commercial Revolving Loan Fund.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Jones, Office Manager
Office of Economic Development