




MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Chair and Members, CRA Board of Commissioners
City of Riviera Beach, Florida

FROM:  Scott Evans
Interim Executive Director, Riviera Beach CRA

COPY: Karen Hoskins, Interim City Manager, City of Riviera Beach
Michael Madden, Interim Chief of Police, Riviera Beach Police Department
J. Michael Haygood, Interim CRA Attorney
Andy DeGraffenreidt, City Attorney

DATE: September 6, 2018

SUBJECT: Request for Board Action to Approve a Lease Agreement between the Agency and MTN Investments, Inc., for the Development of a Community Garden Park on Singer Island in Riviera Beach.

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

Staff requests Board approval to execute a lease agreement between the Agency and MTN Investments, Inc., for the development of a Community Garden Park on Singer Island in Riviera Beach.

BACKGROUND

The Agency, along with the Singer Island Residents proposes to design, construct, and manage a community garden park on previously derelict vacant lots owned by MTN Investments, Inc. The garden will beautify this challenged area, improve the environment by growing plants and flowers, produce healthy and affordable food for the community, and reduce crime by eliminating an area known for vagrant activity.

Exhibit A: Community Garden Lease

The Garden is proposed to be located on land leased to the RBCRA by MTN Investments, Inc. for \$1 per year for two years and month-to-month thereafter, covering approximately .5681 acres; featuring a visually pleasing design.

Lease Terms:

- Landlord: MTN Investments, Inc.
- Location: South East Corner of Blue Heron and Lake Drive
- Term: Two (2) Years, with Option to Extend Month-to-Month, Commencing when Approved by Board and Executed by Chairperson
- Rent: \$1/Year
- Insurance: Comprehensive Liability Insurance, maintained by Tenant
- Taxes: Ad Valorem Real Estate Taxes, Paid by Tenant (Tenant Will Seek an Exemption)
- Right of First Refusal: Available to Tenant During Option Period. Tenant May Exercise Right to Offer to Purchase at Any Time



Singer Island Community Garden Park at South East Corner of Blue Heron and Lake Drive, Riviera Beach, FL

Features of the Garden Park:

The garden will use a drip irrigation system with a soaker hose. It will utilize organic and natural fertilizer will be used; raised beds and the compost bin will be built with as much salvaged lumber as possible; energy efficient water pumps will be utilized; and lighting will incorporate LED fixtures to reduce energy. The garden will be managed by a Master Gardener. Community residents will also volunteer time to prepare the soil, plant crops and rotate harvests and handle distribution of the crops, to name some tasks.

The planned property enhancements will include lighting, irrigation, fencing, and supporting infrastructure such as planting beds. Programmatically, the Community Garden Park will include planting beds at various heights to accommodate the elderly and the handicapped, a butterfly garden, an herb garden, a children's garden and other required features such as a compost area as well as shaded planting beds. This garden will be designed to be relocated and will include minimal infrastructure improvements.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Board approve execution of a lease agreement between the Agency and MTN Investments, Inc., for the development of a Community Garden Park on Singer Island in Riviera Beach.

SE:dh