

COLUMBIA CITY REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MINUTES

October 14, 2025

Members present: President Commissioner Carl Siler
Vice President Commissioner Scott Gates
Commissioner Tad Varga
Commissioner Samara Thompson
Secretary Commissioner Angela Cotter
Commissioner David Smith (Ex-Officio)

Members absent: ---

Also in attendance: Community Development Director Chip Hill
CCRDC Attorney Greg Hockemeyer
Mayor Ryan Daniel
Whitley County EDC President Dale Buuck

President Siler called the meeting to order and asked for a motion to approve the September minutes. Commissioner Varga made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Thompson. A vote was taken; all voted aye.

Old Business-

LML Property – There are currently no updates.

Jackson-Line Street Site – The Jackson/Line Streets property was traded with the county for the Van Buren/Washington Streets property. Mayor would like the RDC to consider how to best proceed with developing the newly acquired property.

Former Jail Property – Chip has a rough draft of an RFP that will be completed in the next few weeks and then will be sent to the commissioners. Currently, the probation department is still in the building, and they are paying the utility bills, but they plan on being out of the building by the end of the year.

Smith Brothers Property – Ice Miller is putting together preliminary numbers of what it will cost to remediate the property, based off the Phase II results.

New Business-

Consideration of Annual Spending Plan – Attorney Hockemeyer reviewed the proposed spending plan with the commissioners. Vice President Gates made a motion to approve the proposed spending plan, seconded by Commissioner Varga. A vote was taken; all voted aye.

Other Business-

Façade Grant Inquiry – Chip said the owner of the Grant Building inquired about a façade grant for the side of their building, but the Grant Building has already received one façade grant this year. Since the side of the building is not visible from the street, the commissioners said they are not in favor of granting their request.

Downtown Revitalization Plan – Mayor Daniel said the preliminary engineering report for the downtown revitalization will begin soon. They will apply for an OCRA Main Street grant, and a Community Crossings grant in spring of 2026. The goal is for construction to occur in 2027.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:29pm.

Submitted by Ashley Buckles, Executive Assistant to the Mayor