



City of Gainesville Agenda Item Report

File Number: 2024-183

Agenda Date: March 7, 2024

Department: Gainesville Community Reinvestment Area

Title: 2024-183 Business Improvement Grant Award Recommendation for Akira Wood (B)

Department: Gainesville Community Reinvestment Area

Description: Akira Wood has submitted an application requesting grant funds of \$150,000.00 under the Gainesville Community Reinvestment Area's Business Improvement Grant Program for improvements to the Baird Hardware Warehouse (the main building located at South Main Station), a National Register-listed historic property located at 619 South Main Street.

Fiscal Note: Funding is available in the Gainesville Community Reinvestment Area's Fund FY 2024 operating budget.

Explanation:

On January 17, 2024, Akira Wood submitted an application requesting grant funds of \$150,000.00 under the Gainesville Community Reinvestment Area's Business Improvement Grant Program. The major proposed work includes:

- Changing the South Main Street entrance to pedestrian-only to enhance the safety of the site
- Changing the wrought iron fencing to a five-foot-high composite concrete and wood slat design
- Regrading the slope along the Main Street side for better stormwater management
- Relocation of existing air conditioner units
- Regrading and relocation that will allow for additional decking to be built to accommodate customers of "Grand Scheme Brewery" (opening in early 2024)
- Additional lighting and landscaping

The program qualifies for a 50% matching grant on all approved improvements following completion. Akira Wood's application is under Tier IV of the program, which allows up to \$150,000 of grant funds for approved work on a listed historic building that equals or

exceeds \$300,000 of expenditures. Per program guidelines, any proposed expenditure equal to or over \$100,000 must be presented to the City Commission prior to approval.

Strategic Connection:

- ☐ Goal 1: Equitable Community
- ☐ Goal 2: More Sustainable Community
- ☒ Goal 3: A Great Place to Live and Experience
- ☒ Goal 4: Resilient Local Economy
- ☒ Goal 5: “Best in Class” Neighbor Services

Recommendation: The City Commission approve Akira Wood Inc.’s Business Improvement Grant application totaling \$150,000.00.