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BOYNTON BEACH CRA PRESERVES RUTH JONES COTTAGE

Historic Home To Be Relocated To New Site



Boynton Beach, FL – In order to preserve one of Boynton Beach’s notable and historic homes, the Boynton Beach Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) is moving the Ruth Jones Cottage to a new location.

The CRA board voted unanimously to approve a land-lease project that would move the Ruth Jones Cottage from 201 N.E. First Street to the southwest corner of East Ocean Avenue and Southeast Fourth Street. The new location, situated next to an existing public parking lot, could serve as a unique locale for a restaurateur.

"The CRA board wanted us to bring a serious individual before we go forward, and we do have interested parties," said CRA Director Lisa Bright, director of the Community Redevelopment Agency.

"The Ruth Jones Cottage is a true Boynton Beach landmark and the CRA felt strongly about preserving this tangible part of our city’s history," said Boynton Beach Mayor and CRA Chair Jose Rodriguez. "Repurposing the home is part of an overall project to revitalize the Ocean Avenue area."

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The CRA purchased the property in 2008 and plans to rehabilitate the 1,000-square-foot, one-story, single family home which was built before World War I. A new roof was installed and the home will be relocated as part of a plan to revitalize the East Ocean Avenue area of the city's downtown area.

The residence has a rich history and housed multiple families since the turn of the century, including Lucille and Otley Scott, who once owned the popular restaurant *Lucille & Otley's*. The late Irvin Lacey, a longtime Boynton Beach resident, was born in the home. The last full-time residents were Ruth and Mason Jones who purchased the residence in 1940.

Former Boynton Beach Commissioner, longtime resident, business owner and local historian, Harvey E. Oyer Jr. said, "Preserving the home and operating it once again is a great way to show people today how Boynton Beach's early generations lived."

The Boynton Beach CRA is committed to serving the community by guiding redevelopment activities and stimulating economic growth within its 1,650-acre district. The organization focuses on creating a vibrant downtown core, providing affordable housing, and revitalizing neighborhoods. For more information on the CRA, its programs and activities, call (561) 737-3256 or visit www.boyntonbeachcra.com.

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