

# Englewood Redevelopment Area (CRA) Advisory Board Meeting

Meeting Minutes of Thursday, October 14, 2010 1:00 p.m.

## I. Call to Order

Chairman John Davison called to order the regular meeting of the Englewood Redevelopment Area (CRA) Advisory Board at 1:02 p.m. on Thursday, October 14, 2010, at the CRA Office, 101 North Orange Street, Englewood, FL 34223.

## II. Roll Call

**Present:** John Davison - Chairman, Todd Tracy - Vice Chairman, John Radkins, Norman Caldwell and Mary Ellen Diez.

John Radkins arrived at 1:33 p.m.

### Sarasota County Staff Present

Debbie Marks, CRA Coordinator  
Jodi Morris, Administrative Specialist

## III. Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting

Chairman Davison asked for approval of the September 9, 2010 minutes, asking for one correction to be made on Page 2 to correct the spelling of Don Schilke's name.

**Motion:** To accept the September 9, 2010 minutes as written with one correction.

**Action:** Unanimously Approve. **Moved by** John Mead, **Seconded by** Norman Caldwell.

## IV. Old Business

- Update of Storm Water Retention Project introduced by Debbie Marks, CRA.
- Update on Low Impact Design (LID) Project, led by Elaine Miller, Suncoast Architects and Team
  - Introduction to the project which began with the initial planning four years ago, has now been redesigned at the suggestion of the CRA to encompass not only storm water retention, but additional parking, and the inclusion of the Veterans Memorial, the Freedom Pavilion and the Harbor Lane property, in coordination with the sidewalk project, in order to provide a complete beautification of the entire West Dearborn Street area from Route 776 to the waterfront.

- Street redesign to one-way traffic on some of the north/south streets is being proposed to enhance public parking, reduce flooding, add connectivity to county properties and add space for artists to display their work.
  - Bus shelters and LED lighting have been added, along with the bioswales, providing storm water retention and redirection and with built-in features of a filtration and an irrigation system as well.
  - The specific landscaping design was described and discussed as using natural Florida concept.
  - Signage and informational kiosks, as recommended by Debbie Marks, CRA, will be provided for vehicular and pedestrian use. Signs will be illuminated by solar powered LED lights.
  - The Veterans Memorial, Harbor Lane property and the property adjacent to the Rinkert property have now been incorporated into one plan within the LID for a unified design.
  - Debbie Marks provided an update on funding for the project, with several grants out for consideration which will provide matching funds from various County agencies.
- Question and answers regarding the LID project were answered by the LID Team. Those questions including: LED lighting, permeable sidewalks, the bioswales and their filtration system and the moving of utilities.

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**New Business**

- Ms. Marks announced the acquisition of a new CRA Board assistant, Joanne Jacobsen.

**V. Comments/Reports**

- Community Outreach Committee - Don Schilke provided an update: In order to reduce neighborhood blight, OEVA established a plan, working with the County Housing and Community Development Agency, and sent out 350 mailings to targeted areas. 71 responses with received. That resulted in the rehabilitation of 7 homes, 3 more homes are in process of being rehabilitated, 10 more applications are in process of being reviewed, 7 home owners are on the waiting list and 44 were not considered eligible. Ms. Marks commented that she has received 5 calls from interested parties seeking to buy homes in the RCTOD area. This should help with the redevelopment. Mr. Schilke considered this project an overall success and looked forward to seeing the

results and thanked the Director of the Housing and Community Development Agency for their assistance.

- Status of Rezoning on Dearborn Street - provided by Debbie Marks of the CRA: There will be one large public meeting, tentatively scheduled for October 28, at the Englewood Sports Complex, in order to provide an update and feedback to the community. Projects to be discussed included: the unified Veterans Memorial Park project and the two parking lots.
- Debbie noted that we have a proposed tenant for the 800 Perry Street house. The lease has to be approved by the Board of County Commissioners (BCC).
- Events - an update was provided by Debbie Marks:
  1. The Library is scheduled to have an Open House on October 24.
  2. The Halloween Safe Walk is scheduled for Sunday, October 31 from 4 pm to 6 pm.
  3. The Christmas Walk has been changed from November 26 to December 1, in order to attract more shoppers.
  4. The Wine Walk plans are underway for February 26, 2011

## **VI. Open to Public**

Betty Nugent suggested that the Board consider a Fall Festival, which has been done in the past, in place of the Halloween Safe Walk.

### **Board Comments**

- a) John Radkins – Thanked everyone for their input and attendance and hoped that the LID project will attract a great deal of attention from the public
- b) Norman Caldwell – kudos to Debbie Marks for all that she's done and was very excited about the projects
- c) John Mead – thanked all that attended and their input.
- d) Vice-Chairman Todd Tracy – thanked all for attending. He was concerned about the daunting cost of \$12 million, but if funding is obtained, it will be great.
- e) Mary Ellen Diez – commented with a question: at what point did all the projects come together? She was concerned that the Veterans Memorial has been set aside for so long and hopes that it will take top priority. Debbie Marks explained that yes - the project will start at the waterfront and work up the street toward Route 776, so the Veterans Memorial will be one of the first portions of the project to get underway.
- f) John Davison – asked when will the Board know who will replace former Board member Harry Colburn? Debbie Marks explained that there will be a meeting of the BCC on November 9 at the R.L. Anderson Building. There was only one applicant, so it will be on the consent agenda. John also asked about the next

meeting date for the Board. Debbie Marks explained that it had been scheduled for November 11, however that is a Sarasota County holiday and asked the Board if they would like to change the meeting to November 18, all agreed.

### **Agenda for November 18, 2010**

- Budget update
- Election of new Board member
- Economic redevelopment

### **Adjournment**

Chairman Davison adjourned the meeting at 3:21 p.m.

Non-Board member sign-in attendance count: 12