

# Englewood Redevelopment Area (CRA) Advisory Board Meeting

Meeting Minutes of Thursday, July 8, 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 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 8, 2010, at the CRA Office, 101 North Orange Street, Englewood, FL 34223.

## II. Roll Call

**Present:** John Davison, Chairman, Todd Tracy, Vice Chairman, John Mead, John Radkins, Norman Caldwell.

Harry Colburn arrived at 1:13 p.m.

**Absent/Excused:** Mary Ellen Diez.

### Sarasota County Staff Present

Debbie Marks, CRA Coordinator  
Jodi Morris, Administrative Specialist  
Wayne Blythe, Administrative Specialist

## III. Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting

Chairman Davison asked for approval of the May 13, 2010 minutes.

John Radkins pointed out that members of the Board were referred to as "the Committee" in various sections of the previous minutes, rather than as "the Board." Chairman Davison directed that any future reference to the board members as an entity should be transcribed as, the "Board," instead of, the "Committee," in the records of subsequent minutes.

**Motion:** To accept the May 13, 2010 minutes as written. **Action:** Unanimously Approve. **Moved by** Norman Caldwell. **Seconded by** John Mead.

Chairman Davison asked those present who had topics to present in open forum to wait and make their presentations to the Board after the Old Business was addressed.

#### IV. Old Business

- Update on LID Signage Project

Elaine Miller reminded the Board that over the past couple of months, discussions had been focused on one-way streets and roundabouts in the central business district. She then made her presentation about the next phase of the LID Project, the signage phase, which focused on key wayfaring signs for both vehicular and pedestrian traffic. Ms. Miller stated that at the next meeting, she intended to provide a presentation about the Veterans' Memorial and the Freedom Pavilion, and that her team was approaching 60% of design submission to the County .

Debbie Marks stated that the CRA had \$30,000 in the Signage Line Item that could be used to create some of the signs immediately.

Harry Colburn voiced his concern about the procedure that would be used to implement the signage project and the possibility of duplication, that there should be more than two or three people making the decisions, and his desire to see the creation of a signage committee to review the signage process.

Debbie Marks explained the levels of review that were already in place.

A discussion took place between Todd Tracy, Vice Chairman, and Elaine Miller about signage. Todd Tracy expressed his desire to have the audience in open forum voice its opinions about the signage process.

Chairman Davison stated that he would postpone hearing any comments from the audience about signage until a later time when more information was available.

#### V. New Business

- Review the Educational Tour Ferry

Matt Osterhoudt and Rachael Herman, Natural Resources Department, appeared to answer any questions and discuss the idea of an educational tour boat that would be based at 10 Harbor Lane. Mr. Osterhoudt reiterated his mission to maintain the balance between protecting the environment, and offering recreational opportunities to the public; he also explained that his office would act as a liaison between the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and Englewood to facilitate establishing an educational ferry. Mr. Osterhoudt stated that the type of boat, its mission, and number of slips and people tying off would be issues to consider in this endeavor.

Discussion ensued between the Board members and Mr. Osterhoudt concerning the requirements for such a project.

John Radkins volunteered to head a committee that would represent the Board's interest in an educational tour ferry, its feasibility, and make liaison with Matt

Osterhoudt. Debbie Marks noted that Kent Coxey, the neighbor to the Harbor property park project, was present and might want to participate as a member in the committee with John Radkins. Mr. Coxey acknowledged his willingness to participate.

Todd Tracy voiced his concern about the CRA being involved in this sort of project, and that having the private sector aid and develop this activity would be in everybody's best interest.

Mr. Osterhoudt further added that the decision making for the educational ferry would be at the State level in Tallahassee, and a Sovereign Submerged Lands Lease would most likely be applicable in this case. He stated that a list of parameters and concepts for the educational ferry would be needed for his review and subsequent submission to the State level. It was determined that John Radkins would coordinate with Debbie Marks for a future committee meeting with Mr. Osterhoudt concerning a potential educational ferry operation.

- Request for Funding from the CRA

A representative from the Lemon Bay Myakka Trail Scenic Highway Committee, Bret Clark, appeared to request funding in the amount of \$1,000 from the CRA for its travelers' activity book. He stated that the book was part of a program for public outreach, that the book benefited local businesses and was also used by organizations for their own fund raiser events.

Discussion ensued between the Board and Mr. Clark about the Scenic Highway publication.

The Board inquired of Debbie Marks about available funding, and Ms. Marks reminded the Board of the \$7,000 balance that was remaining for the fiscal year.

**Motion:** To approve the donation in the amount of \$1,000 to the Lemon Bay Myakka Trail Scenic Highway Committee towards the costs of its publication. **Action:** Approve. **Moved by** Harry Colburn, **Seconded by** Todd Tracy, Vice Chairman.

**Yes:** John Davison, Chairman, John Mead, Norman Caldwell, and John Radkins.

- Request for Funding from the CRA

Jim Pollard, representative from SHORE, appeared to request funding in the amount of \$440 for a community picnic; such funds to be used by SHORE for permitting and food costs.

**Motion:** To approve a donation in the amount of \$440 to SHORE. **Action:** Approve. **Moved by** Norman Caldwell, **Seconded by** Harry Colburn.

**Yes:** John Davison, Chairman, Todd Tracy, Vice Chairman, John Mead and John Radkins.

- Request for Funding from the CRA

Debbie Marks stated that James Abraham, who had previously initiated the Book Fair, was requesting an amount of up to \$1,000 for this year's Book Fair costs; that the amount would more likely be \$850 for permitting fees, rental of tables and chairs and printing fees. Ms. Marks stated that, coupled with his funding request, James Abraham also asked the Board to consider sponsoring an ad in the Dearborn Street Literary Magazine, a newly created magazine; the ad would be a quarter-page ad, costing \$700 for the year.

Debbie Marks discussed the literary magazine publication with the Board, as well as clarifying aspects of the Book Festival.

Todd Tracy, Vice Chairman, suggested that the Board forego considering the magazine ad, and that he supported the funding request for the Book Fair event.

**Motion:** Approve funding in the amount of up to \$1,000 for the Book Fair. **Action:** Approve. **Moved by** Norman Caldwell, **Seconded by** Harry Colburn.

**Yes:** John Davison, Chairman, Todd Tracy, Vice Chairman, John Mead and John Radkins.

John Davison, Chairman, addressed the second question; that is, sponsoring an ad in the literary magazine. The Chairman stated that he would vote against the request for sponsoring the ad, wanting to defer its approval until next year. The Chairman then invited discussion of the request and the Board members exchanged viewpoints.

**Motion:** Approve funding in the amount of \$700 to sponsor an ad in Dearborn Street Literary Magazine. **Moved by** Harry Colburn. **Action:** Motion died due to lack of a second.

John Radkins suggested that a month be given for consideration of any requests for funding. He stated that he would rather the Board not be asked to make any decisions on funding requests on the same day that they are presented, that the Board should be allowed to think about the request and then make a decision at the following month's meeting.

Discussion ensued about the time frame needed for consideration of funding requests.

Harry Colburn requested that consideration of the ad sponsorship request by James Abraham for the Dearborn Street Literary Magazine be put on the Agenda for the Board meeting in August 2010. The Chairman and remaining Board members had a consensus of agreement on this point. Todd Tracey, Vice Chairman, requested that Debbie Marks provide a financial statement at that time of what funds would be available towards the requested funding.

## **VI. Open to the Public**

Eric Phelps commented on John Radkins' good performance on the radio station, and endorsed the presentation by Elaine Miller about signage. He questioned the profitability of an educational ferry, saying the CRA would in effect be facilitating a private business. He thanked the Rotary Club for its July 4<sup>th</sup> fireworks display, and mentioned that the benches located at the bus stops are facing away from the bus stops. Mr. Phelps noted that the CRA district wasn't just limited to Dearborn Street, and if the public was to "buy into" the beautification projects of the Scenic Highway, the public should expect to see some efforts put into other areas as well.

Jon Bednerik, Englewood Chamber of Commerce, thanked the Advisory Board and the Board of County Commissioners for their contribution of \$50,000 for the Chamber of Commerce building fund, saying the funding level had reached \$415,000.

## **VII. Comments / Reports**

- Community Outreach Committee

Debbie Marks stated that Don Schilke was not present and had been out of the area. She indicated that she would update him upon his return

- Sustainable Learning Center

Debbie Marks announced that progress was being made to approach the Board of County Commissioners to utilize the structures at Kiwanis Park. She said that October 9<sup>th</sup> was set for the new playground's opening at the site, the same day as the Buchan Fly-In. There should be community meetings soon, she stated, at which the public would be solicited for information about the Learning Center, and to get volunteers involved.

- Status of Rezoning on Dearborn Street

Debbie Marks updated the Board on rezoning for Kelly's Two, saying that their development concept plan was being finished, and that it should be filed at the end of the month before Ms. Marks left on vacation. She added that she hoped to have the concept plans for the G-Zone District parking submitted at the same time.

- Cherokee / Harbor Properties

Debbie Marks updated the Board about the Cherokee property, saying that the final response was sent to DEP on July 1<sup>st</sup>; that Chuck Listowski, WCIND, believes the paperwork is complete. Ms. Marks then stated that the State has 30 days in which to respond, and that the permits should then be cleared for both docks on Cherokee Street.

Debbie Marks further added that the Harbor property is in the final stages of completion. She said that the pilings had been constructed at their present height for safety reasons due to tide levels and potential boater tie-up usage. Ms. Marks explained that a paver brick walkway, designed by Elaine Miller's group, would be installed along the seawall as soon as three bids were received.

Ms. Marks pointed out that repairs at the Perry Street property have totaled \$6,000, and bids have been accepted for installing blinds so the house can be leased out as soon as possible. She said that the house at Perry Street has been vandalized numerous times.

- Veterans Memorial Park

Debbie Marks stated that the design for the Veterans' Memorial Park will be presented and reviewed in August.

- Events

Debbie Marks reminded the Board that events will be starting up very soon, starting with the Pioneer Day Parade, the Buchan Fly-In and Kaleidoscope.

Todd Tracy, Vice Chairman, inquired as to what the cost would be to replace the missing sidewalk section at the Learning Center at the airport property. Ms. Marks responded that it was part of the "sidewalk plan" that was surtax dollars and was "years down the road" for completion. A discussion ensued concerning replacement of the missing sidewalk.

Debbie Marks stated that she would not be present for the August meeting, unless the Board desired to change the meeting date. The Board agreed to set a revised meeting date for August 19<sup>th</sup>.

### **Board Comments**

- a) Norman Caldwell – It was a productive meeting; we do not want to slow down.
- b) Vice-Chairman Todd Tracy – The fireworks event was a wonderful show. Have every confidence in Elaine Miller and her signage project; it will work out to everyone's satisfaction. Thanks to everyone for attending.
- c) John Mead – Want to thank everybody, on behalf of the Rotary Club, who was involved with the fireworks event.
- d) Chairman John Davison – Enjoyed the fireworks and activities from the Cherokee property. Got 125 letters signed from the community endorsing the parks project.
- e) John Radkins – Encourage everybody to get onto the Old Englewood website and make comments about the signage project.
- f) Harry Colburn – Everybody favors improved signage; would like to see all government-sponsored signs replaced to make them consistent with the other proposed new signage. Start from scratch with a whole new set of signs.

**g)** Mary Ellen Diez – Absent.

**Agenda Items for August 19, 2010**

FY2011 Budget

**Adjournment**

Chairman Davison adjourned the meeting at 2:53 p.m.

Non-Board member sign-in attendance count: 16