

## Amended

### Englewood Redevelopment Area (CRA)

#### Advisory Board Meeting

Meeting Minutes of Thursday, August 11, 2011 1:00 p.m.

#### I. Call to Order

Vice Chair John Mead called to order the regular meeting of the Englewood Community Redevelopment Area (CRA) Advisory Board at 1:04 p.m. on Thursday, August 11, 2011, at the CRA Office, 101 North Orange Street, Englewood, FL 34223.

#### II. Roll Call

**Present:** John Mead – Vice Chair, John Davison, Norman Caldwell, Don Landis and Todd Tracy.

Mary Ellen Diez - Chairperson and John Radkins were not able to attend.

#### Sarasota County Staff Present

Debbie Marks, CRA Coordinator  
Amy Wood, Administrative Assistant II

#### III. Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting

Vice Chair John Mead asked for approval of the June 9, 2011 minutes.

**Motion:** To accept the June 9, 2011 minutes as written.

**Moved by** Norm Caldwell **Seconded by** John Davison

**Action:** Unanimously Approved.

#### IV. Old Business

Discussion ensued on the 2012 Budget.

Debbie Marks presented a spreadsheet on an overhead presentation and explained the approved budget. She also explained how the CRA will dissolve 2029 and that they cannot take on new debt after 2019. Debbie explained the project that the CRA is currently paid off and that the percentage being paid back to the County is not specific though thought to be lower than 5% interest for future debt. After all debt is paid off, the CRA will then focus on identifying how to spend the estimated \$10 million that will be left in the budget through revisiting the Community Plan.

Todd Tracy questioned how the Englewood parks would continue to be maintained once the CRA was disbanded. Debbie explained that the Englewood parks will become County parks and maintenance will be paid by the County.

## **V. New Business**

Mr. Rex Govorchin noted that a small group of individuals has come together as the Dearborn Group. Members of the group are: Mr. Rex Govorchin, Mr. Russ Kyper, Mr. Don Landis, Mr. Roy Lovesky and Mr. Jack McMorrow. Ms. Elaine Miller is their Architectural Consultant. Mr. Govorchin explained that they would like to create a cultural center for the Englewood area. The purpose of the Dearborn Group's presentation to the CRA Advisory Board was to ask for the board's endorsement for them to contact the Board of County Commissioners and request that the \$500,000 matching challenge grant that was originally set aside for the Lemon Bay Playhouse be held for one year in support of this project. The goal of the Dearborn Group is to build a cultural center that will help attract more people and raise property values. The group plans on meeting with the Sarasota Board of County Commissioners to request the \$500,000 be set aside for the cultural center. Mr. Govorchin explained that the money, if not requested, may no longer be available after September. Therefore, they need to meet with the Commissioner right away. Mr. Govorchin asked for questions.

Mr. Tracy asked what the groups' definition for a cultural center was. Mr. Govorchin commented that they were planning a large auditorium and garden, retail mix and sufficient parking to accommodate the uses. They could have everything from musicals, important conferences to dinner theaters. The seating could range from 200 to 500 seats. The plan to keep the cost of the cultural center below five million dollars. Mr. Tracy mentioned that the CRA is planning the Green Street parking lot immediately south of the proposed site and asked if they contemplated using that parking? Ms. Miller answered that they were planning to utilize that parking as well as some on-site parking.

Mr. Caldwell asked if there had been any thought on incorporating a museum facility/old fishing village concept into the property. Mr. Govorchin stated that they were open to any ideas/concepts. He noted that they were going to incorporate the "Olde Englewood Village Green" in the open area, which would have medicinal plants, bamboo, etc.

Mr. Tracy asked about the size of the new facility in comparison to the previous proposal. Ms. Miller noted that the original proposal was for 60,000 square feet and this would be 25,000 square feet. They don't know about the height yet, but it will be a scaled down version.

Ms. Miller expressed that the group plans on having many community meetings in order to gather community support and input and make the cultural center a place that is beneficial to the entire area.

Mr. Tracy asked if the buildings would be located on the street as previously proposed. Mr. Govorchin stated that they did not have all of that information at this time. They want to leave the design open for discussions with the community. He noted that once they knew they had the \$500,000 matching challenge grant, then they would move forward with the community meetings and the design.

A motion was made by John Davison to support the Dearborn Group in their request to maintain the funds from the County Commissions.

**Moved by** John Davison **Seconded by** Todd Tracy

**Action:** Unanimously Approved.

## **VI. Comments/Reports**

Debbie Marks explained that all of the Rezoning had been accomplished and the LID Project is out to bid in October. She is expecting a ground breaking event in December.

F.A.M.E. weekend event is set to be held November 11, 12, 13 at Pioneer Park.

Pioneer Day Parade and Festival: September 5<sup>th</sup>, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

## **VII. Open to the Public**

**Speaker 1:** Christy Phelps thanked the CRA Advisory Board for funding the making of the pioneer Days brochure. She explained that the brochures were sent throu out the state. She also explained the upcoming schedule:

Saturday, August 20, 2011

Little Miss/Mr. Englewood, 9 a.m., The Suncoast Auditorium

Thursday September 1, 2011

Englewood Idol, 7 p.m. More Info

Saturday September 3, 2011,

Cardboard Boat Race, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m., 1st Sailing & Rowing exhibitions at Indian Mound Park starting at noon.

Shipwreck Dance, "Shipwrecked in Englewood", 7 p.m. - 11 p.m., Englewood on Dearborn

Sunday September 4, 2011

2nd Annual Fish-A-Thon, Registration at 7 a.m. - Poles in the water by 8 - 11

Artists Acres Tour, 12:30 - 2:00 p.m.

Diaper Derby, 2:00 p.m.

Monday September 5, 2011

Parade & Park Festival, Parade 10 a.m., Festival 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Debbie Marks clarified that the event was all Non-Profit. The group confirmed yes.

**Speaker 2:** Elaine Miller requested funding and support for security in this years Safe Walk the OEVA does every Halloween. She explained that although no one has been harmed in the past, incidents have occurred and OEVA wants to make sure that all children and families are safe during the event.

A motion was made to help with the funding of this year's Safe Walk.

**Moved by** John Davison **Seconded by** Norman Caldwell

**Action:** Unanimously Approved.

Another motion was made to approve \$300 for candy at this year's Safe Walk.

**Moved by** Todd Tracy **Seconded by** John Davison

**Action:** Unanimously Approved.

**Speaker 3:** Jack Gray Spoke on a few subjects. (Jack Gray)

Mr. Gray requested funding to run an ad in the "Born to Ride Magazine". He explained that it would be \$100 a month. Debbie explained that after October 1, there may be funding although money has already been delegated toward advertisement. She recommended that he bring this to the marketing committee to make a decision.

Mr. Gray told the board about the Music Festival that will be held on March 10 and that is improving his facility and encourages all organizations to use.

Lastly, Mr. Gray spoke of his plans to participate in the La Florida Fest. Explained the event and his ideas to how he would like to make the event a possibly making Englewood, Charlotte an international focal point. A discussion ensued and permitting was addressed. Debbie explained that she would help but would not fund permitting because the Youth Foundation can get the permitting for free.

## **VIII. Board Comments**

- a) Norman Caldwell – Thanked those that are volunteering
- b) Todd Tracy – Thanked everyone for coming and appreciated the great ideas. He stated that h was particularly excited for the cultural center
- c) John Davison – Forewarned those that are seeking permits to work that into their timeframe. It could take a while.
- d) Don Landis – Expressed how he thought this was an exciting meeting.
- e) John Mead – Excited for what he heard at this meeting.

**IX. Agenda Items for October 13, 2011, 1:00 p.m.**

Continued financial updates.

**X. Adjournment**

Vice Chair Mead adjourned the meeting at 2:11 p.m.

Non-Board member sign-in attendance count: 24