

Englewood Redevelopment Area (CRA) Advisory Board Meeting

Meeting Minutes of Thursday, February 12, 2009 8:30 AM

Members Present

Chair John Davison
Vice Chair Todd Tracy
Norman Caldwell
Harry Colburn
Mary Ellen Diez
John Mead
John Radkins

Members Absent

None

Sarasota County Staff Present

Debbie Marks, CRA Coordinator
Corie Haring, CRA Admin. Assistant

I. Call to order

Chair John Davison called to order the regular meeting of the Englewood Redevelopment Area (CRA) Advisory Board at 8:30 AM on Thursday, February 12, 2009 located at the CRA Office, 101 North Orange Street, Englewood, FL 34223.

II. Roll call

CRA Coordinator, Debbie Marks called roll. The following Board members were present; Chair John Davison, Vice-Chair Todd Tracy, John Radkins, Norman Caldwell, Harry Colburn, John Mead. Expected but not present was Ms. Diez. After a phone call Ms. Diez stated she was enroute and arrived at 9:02 AM.

III. Approval of minutes from last meeting

Chair Davison asked for approval of the January 8, 2009 minutes. John Mead motioned to accept the minutes as published. Norman Coldwell seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as published.

IV. Open to the public

V. New business

Chair Davison recommended that a green incentive be added to the Storefront Development Grant Program. Chair Davison said this would have to be in ratio with *and* included storefront upgrades. This incentive would allow up to another \$10,000.00 (maximum) matching grant to be available for incorporating green components to the already existing \$15,000.00 grant program. Discussion ensued. Chair Davison suggested the Storefront Development Committee pull together an outline to present to the Advisory Board in March.

VI. Old business

Stormwater presentation from guests Spencer Anderson, P.E. Program Manager for Sarasota County Environmental Services and Warren Davis, Planning & Regulatory Services, Sarasota County. There was a PowerPoint overview presentation to explain the function and purpose of the proposed stormwater vault system for the Englewood Village area. An underground vault system would be the most practical versus a runoff/pond system due to the elevation of the area. The pond footprint would

have to be so large it would not be relevant to the goals of the Village area. Extensive discussion took place.

Talking points;

1. A Low Impact Development (LID) plan can be developed to work along with the vault system.
2. Stormwater staff is currently looking to move forward with part of this plan and include LID improvements to reduce the amount of (water) treatment needed.
3. Permit modifications are still needed to include LID.
4. The purpose of the project is to allow for development of the area, the task of the Stormwater staff was not to address the flooding issues.
5. The vaults will treat one and a half inches of initial runoff. Known as "First Flush." Significant portion of pollutants will be found in the first one and a half inches of initial runoff.
6. Debbie Marks - After speaking with the county staff and because plans to construct a new Playhouse are moving forward staff suggested to the Board to invest in the Green Street vault. We have the money to cover the cost of that vault. We need a test project and the Playhouse may be a good place to try out a few ideas. Architect, Elaine Miller has requested the assistance of the County engineers to compile what kinds of LID principles could be used on the Playhouse site to reduce the need of the vault storage space. Then use a cistern or a like system to pump water back out for irrigation.
7. Spencer Anderson presented a spreadsheet of the square footage of area parcels in accordance with the vault system. The total cost of the Green Street vault system is \$1.5 million dollars divided by the square footage of area parcels equals a cost of \$5.85 per square foot.

A motion was made by Harry Colburn to recommend to the Board of County Commissioners to move forward with the Green Street vault. John Radkins seconded and discussion ensued. The Chair called for the vote and the motion passed 5-2 in favor of the project.

VII. New Business

Debbie Marks presented images of new light pole banners and billboard designs created by graphic artist, Rebecca Barbier on behalf of our Marketing Committee. Everyone had ideas and thoughts were shared. Board consensus was to go with the black and yellow billboard image.

Ms. Marks presented the new TV commercial that was created by Traffic Team Advertisers. It is a 30 second commercial with images of Dearborn Street and the surrounding area. The concept was an idea of the Marketing Committee to present Dearborn Street as a day destination.

Ms. Marks presented a lay out of Cherokee Park, including bathrooms and two 2-pole picnic shelters.

Mary Ellen Diez commented about the Veterans Memorial. The big arch will be allowed at the end of Dearborn Street.

Ms. Marks let all know the Wine Walk is on February 28, and tickets are on sale at the Lemon Bay Playhouse, at Vino Loco, Wine and Tapas and at Karen's Creamery.

On behalf of Kristy Stevenson, Debbie Marks presented a request for CRA funding for tee shirts for Englewood Elementary Schools' "Diversity Day." The request is for up to, but not to exceed \$1000.00. Harry Colburn motioned to approve the funding and seconded by Todd Tracy. The request passed unanimously.

Bobbie Marquis presented an update on the www.OldeEnglewood.com website along with Elaine Miller.

Norm Coldwell motioned to support Bobbie Marquis and her website updates at \$450.00 per month, for six months. Todd Tracy seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Local resident Don Schilke brought to the Boards attention his concerns with the direction of the CRA Advisory Board's work. Mr. Schilke stated he felt that the Englewood CRA has lost its direction and that neighborhood blight is rampant. He presented to the Board several photos of area homes he views as in dire need for the CRA's attention. He explained the CRA has not taken action to improve these problems. Ms. Marks commented that several properties have been reported to Sarasota County Code Enforcement. Ms. Marks asked Mr. Schilke to create a Committee for Community Outreach and she will work with them to assist those properties where the owners are too ill or not financially able to make the improvements.

VIII. Board Comments

- a) Norman Caldwell – A little disappointed with the vote vault. I wish we had continued to look into Elaine Millers ideas. But all-in—all this was a very good meeting.
- b) Vice-Chair Tracy – That were have several CRA projects coming to the forefront in 2009 and this may help morale. Mr. Tracy reminded everyone that it's not against the Sunshine Laws to lobby the County Commissioners.
- c) Mary Ellen Diez – Thanked everyone for being here.
- d) John Mead – I disagree with my friend Norm and I am please to move forward with the vault.
- e) John Radkins – Thank you for the coffee and I see the stormwater issue as a piece of the puzzle in the redevelopment process. It has been many years coming.
- f) Harry Colburn – We had a good meeting today and thanked the Chair.
- g) Chair Davison – It's been a long meeting and thank you for coming.

IX. Adjournment

Chair Davison adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

Non-Board member sign-in attendance count; 17