

**ENGLEWOOD COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AREA (CRA)  
ADVISORY BOARD  
Minutes of March 13, 2008**

A regular meeting of the Englewood Community Redevelopment Area Advisory Board was held on Thursday, March 13, 2008, at 1:00 p.m., at Lemon Bay Park, 570 Bay Park Blvd., Englewood, FL.

**Members Present**

John Radkins, Chairman  
John Davison, Vice-Chairman  
Mary Ellen Diez  
John Mead  
Harry Colburn  
Norman Caldwell  
Todd Tracy

**Sarasota County Staff Present**

Debbie Marks, CRA Coordinator  
Jessi Pasternak, Admin. Assistant II CRA  
Kevin Smith, Public Works Facilities

**Call to Order**

Chairman John Radkins called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Roll was taken and John Radkins, John Davison, Mary Ellen Diez, John Mead, Harry Colburn, Norman Caldwell and Todd Tracy were all present. There was a quorum.

**Approval of Minutes**

February 14, 2008

Chairman Radkins began by correcting a mistake under the first Open to the Public section, first paragraph, line three, the word “that” should be removed. Also, page three under the Marketing Plan, fourth line, “summiting” should be “submitted”. Chairman Radkins identified another correction in John Mead’s Advisory Board Comments, Stillwater is one word.

Todd Tracy also responded with some corrections beginning on page two, under the open to the public section, third paragraph. The end of the third line should read, “...as long as the CRA Advisory Board was not asked to endorse the matter.” On page three, Mr. Tracy also noticed that the sixth line should read “...applications are to be submitted...” Under the Marketing Plan on the same page, Mr. Tracy suggested that line eight be changed to “...try to gain interest from the TV stations.” Plus, the last two words on page three should be capitalized, Wine Walk. Mr. Tracy continued with changes on page four, line three, “...CRA’s have to be approved by public referendum in order to bond.” Then on page five, Mr. Tracy identified two more changes. One under the Open to the Public section, paragraph three, line two, “Specifically, the modification of the commercial to general...” And last line under the Advisory Board Comments, “...creating an Art-in-Public Spaces committee and the Northern Anchor Project.”

Ms. Diez made a motion to approve the minutes. John Mead seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

## **Open to the Public**

None.

## **Comments/Reports**

**Marketing Plan:** Jessi Pasternak updated the Advisory Board that the decisions that were made earlier by the marketing committee are self-sufficient at this time. Ms. Pasternak continues to update the advertisements as needed to highlight specific events. She commented that she has been hearing very good comments from the merchants about the billboards and other marketing items. Also, she explained that the Venice Gulf Coast Living magazine is running two editorials back to back discussing a day in Olde Englewood Village. The first editorial runs in the March issue, and the second will be in the April issue.

**Mural Project:** Debbie Marks thanked everyone who helped with the mural project. She explained that the event was brought in under the \$10,000 budget at \$6,752.11. The rental and leases were \$1,140. The food was \$871.88 for eight artists for the week. Various restaurants gave us discounts, so it was only \$13 per day per artist. Supplies and materials were approximately \$2,500. Finally, the travel costs were around \$2,300. There was one little issue, one of the artists wasn't able to make it at the last minute and her plane ticket was already purchased. So, the Lemon Tree Gallery offered to pay for the plane ticket, and then they will be reimbursed from the sales of the custom wine bottles that are being sold at Vino Loco. Ms. Marks thanked Don and Janet Landis for their support.

Vice Chairman Davison suggested having a wall plaque made that describes the mural project and the artist. It then could be attached on the wall near the mural. Ms. Marks responded that she would get some cost estimates and bring them back to the Advisory Board.

**Signage/Landscaping Project:** Mr. Colburn updated the board that the sign committee has been meeting. Their most recent meeting was yesterday with Bob Lepley the County's Code Enforcement officer. Mr. Colburn expressed that his own view is that the committee does not need to seek changes within the current codes; they just need to be enforced. Mr. Colburn discussed how some of the codes are going to expire. Mr. Tracy questioned exactly what the details of the grandfather clause were. Ms. Marks said she would get the exact requirements and expiration dates from Mr. Lepley and provide them to the Advisory Board. Ms. Marks also commented on how the merchants need to use Sarasota County licensed contractors to change or install signs. Apparently, there were a few merchants on Dearborn Street who were cited for not using the proper contractors.

Debbie Marks went on to discuss the new Olde Englewood Village sign that was just installed at the intersection of SR 776 and Old Englewood Road. The sign had been in storage for the past few years at Harbor Lane. Kevin Smith, from Sarasota County Public Works elaborated on the nautical themed pilings that were used for the sign. The sign should be completed in the next

week or two, and then the CRA will begin work on a sign at the intersection of SR 776 and Manasota Beach Road.

**RCTOD/Code Changes:** Ms. Marks explained that the planning department is reviewing the RCTOD packet. She elaborated that the package is adopting the architectural guidelines and the guidelines are going to be enforced. The next South County Planning Commission date is towards the end of April. However, they are also asking to be on the next Board of County Commissioners agenda for May or June.

**Waterfront Properties Update:** Debbie Marks explained that the houses at the Cherokee Street properties were burned by the Fire Department. Kevin Smith, from Sarasota County, elaborated that by having the Fire Department train and then burn the houses reduced the original demolition cost by approximately \$13,000. The Fire Department asked Mr. Smith to thank the Advisory Board on their behalf because the training that they received was invaluable. The final demolition and debris removal of the Cherokee Street houses will start on March 24<sup>th</sup>. They will start at the Cherokee Street properties, and then move to the Quonset hut to demolish that. Debbie Marks commented that she would like to see a park at Cherokee Street by this June.

Vice Chairman Davison updated the board on the West Coast Inland Navigational District (WCIND) funding and the direction that the future park is moving in. Mr. Davison commented that the engineering firm is working on a scope of services, including a number of surveys and multiple other preparatory duties. However, the plans for the picnic shelter and other items are moving forward. Ms. Marks stated that she hopes the park to be open to the public in June, but the City Pier may not be completed by then. After some discussion about the Cherokee Street Park, Mr. Colburn also mentioned that the white fence by the public restrooms needs to be pressured washed.

**Fund Raising Event for Kiwanis Park:** Ms. Marks updated the Board that the circus was moved to November 7-9<sup>th</sup>, 2008. After meeting again with the Anastasini Family Circus they suggested that in order to make the event successful, we should push it back to have more time to prepare. Ms. Marks echoed their recommendation, and the date was moved from April to November.

**Educational Boat:** Vice Chairman Davison publicly thanked Bill Tryder for all his hard work with preparing the application for the educational boat and dock funding from the West Coast Inland Navigational District (WCIND). Mr. Davison gave a brief update on the type of boat that the committee is exploring, including a solar powered boat that is environmentally friendly. Ms. Marks expressed the partners that are involved in this committee including the Coast Guard Auxiliary, Sheriff Department, Englewood Fire Department, the Arts Alliance of Lemon Bay, 4-H and the YMCA.

**Veterans Memorial Park:** Mary Ellen Diez commented that the committee met again; however, they are waiting on a survey to be completed. Ms. Marks has already ordered the survey as part of the scope of work for the Harbor Lane property. Ms. Diez mentioned that she is meeting with an individual from Maryland who built a Veteran memorial on a similar parcel of land. She hopes by the next meeting to have something to show the Advisory Board.

Mr. Bill Tryder commented from the audience that as a Veteran himself, he feels that “big isn’t always better”. Ms. Diez recognized his concern, and stated that the committee understood the purpose for the memorial, that it should be understated and meaningful. Ms. Diez also elaborated that they are looking at an arch at the end of Dearborn Street, which would be the entrance into the memorial.

**Advisory Board Procedures:** Ms. Marks read an e-mail from County Attorney, Maria Korn. “I checked with my colleagues for more conversant with land use issues and was assured that there is nothing inappropriate with the advisory board hearing the presentations as described so long as it is part of a public meeting with notice, minutes etc. You may wish to have the Board review their resolution if they are seeking further guidance. Same for the notices which appear to be consistent with your mission. The Advisory Board can appoint a subcommittee (e.g. Art in Public Places) so long as it follows the Sunshine law requiring meetings and records.” The CRA Advisory Board is able to hear whatever they choose to, however, they are not able to act on these items. Ms. Marks expressed that the Advisory Board acts at times as a sounding board.

**CRA Request for Funding:** Ms. Marks mentioned that she forgot to include it on the agenda, but she updated the application for CRA funding. She distributed copies to the Advisory Board and asked them to notify her of any changes.

Ms. Marks also notified the CRA Advisory Board that Jeff Seward, Sarasota County Chief Financial Planning Officer has offered to update the board at the June 12, 2008 Advisory Board meeting on the county budget. Chairman Radkins commented that he is very interested in what Jeff Seward has to report, especially in regards to the Stormwater.

### **Open to the Public**

Erik Schlake thanked the Advisory Board for their support and financial backing for making the Englewood Mural Project a success. He specifically thanked Debbie Marks, Jessi Pasternak, Elaine Miller, Kimco Construction, Don and Janet Landis for their time and effort. Mr. Schlake continued that the artists had an amazing time, and the group is already starting to plan for next year’s event.

Norm Caldwell also thanked Debbie Marks and Jessi Pasternak for volunteering their time, and going above and beyond to make the mural project a success.

### **Advisory Board Comments**

Norman Caldwell expressed his excitement that the Veteran Memorial is moving forward. He complemented the rest of the group on the progress being made with the other projects too.

Harry Colburn commented that he is frustrated that things haven’t happened yet in regards to the stormwarter project. Mr. Colburn elaborated that he feels the little projects that have been

accomplished are just band aids. He feels that the CRA should stay focused on completing the stormwater project.

Mary Ellen Diez stated she was happy that the artists were not starving while participating in the Englewood Mural Project. She also thanked Erik Schlake for bringing the idea and project to the Advisory Board.

John Mead mentioned to Erik Schlake that the CRA Advisory Board needs to thank him for his vision and hard work for making the Englewood Mural Project possible.

Mr. Schlake responded that it was a very symbiotic relationship.

Todd Tracy addressed Mr. Colburn's comments. He disagreed by stating that he was excited about the little projects such as the Mural Project or the Cherokee Street Park. Mr. Tracy commented that the majority of the community is looking forward to the little projects too. He expressed that it is the smaller, more visible things that are important to the public. Mr. Tracy also thanked Erik Schlake, Debbie Marks and Jessi Pasternak for their hard work with the Mural Project.

John Davison commented that if the Dearborn Street merchants and the CRA stay focused and continues to move forward with projects, then the community will be ready when the economy is returning.

John Radkins expressed his thanks to the public for attending the CRA Board meetings. He continued by thanking the Advisory Board members for getting involved with the committees. Mr. Radkins also stated that the CRA will be ready for the stormwater when the funding is available.

### **Agenda Items**

Ms. Marks commented that there will be more updates. She also asked the Advisory Board if there was a way Zigamazoo could get a bike rack out front of their business. Mary Ellen Diez said she would get in touch with her county contact and have a bike rack ordered for them. She also expressed her disappointment in how the current bike racks haven't been painted.

Mr. Tracy asked Debbie Marks if there was an update on the signs for the public restrooms. Ms. Marks responded that she is still trying to locate a company that can create the signs.

### **Adjournment**

Chairman Radkins adjourned the meeting at 2:00 pm.