

**ENGLEWOOD COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AREA (CRA)
ADVISORY BOARD
Minutes of June 12, 2008**

A regular meeting of the Englewood Community Redevelopment Area Advisory Board was held on Thursday, June 12, 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
Harry Colburn
Norman Caldwell
Todd Tracy

Sarasota County Staff Present

Debbie Marks, CRA Coordinator
Jeffrey Seward, Chief Financial Officer
Spencer Anderson, P.E., Program Manager

Member Absent

John Mead

Call to Order

Chairman John Radkins called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m. Roll was taken and John Radkins, John Davison, Mary Ellen Diez, Harry Colburn, Norman Caldwell and Todd Tracy were all present. John Mead was absent. There was a quorum.

Approval of Minutes

May 8, 2008

Debbie Marks reviewed the recommended changes from Todd Tracy. Mr. Colburn made a motion to approve the minutes. Norman Caldwell seconded. Mary Ellen Diez did not vote because she was absent at the May meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Open to the Public

Elaine Miller informed the board that she and others are in the process of researching low impact design specifically for Dearborn Street and to aid with the storm water mitigation. Ms. Miller requested that low impact design be on the August CRA Advisory Board agenda. After asking the Board if they had any concern, Chairman Radkins agreed for the topic to be an agenda item.

Special Guest

“Budget Update” Jeffery Seward, Chief Financial Planning Officer, Sarasota County

Jeffery Seward, Chief Financial Planning Officer, Sarasota County gave an update to the Board on the fiscal year 2009 budget and how it effects the Englewood CRA. Mr. Seward discussed how the county originally calculated a worse case scenario at a 10% reduction from the Property

Appraisers office. However, when the number was revealed on June 1st, it was a 17% reduction. It was because of this loss in revenue that the total fiscal year 2009 property tax loss, using 2008 tax rates, shows a deficit of \$39,024,662. The General Fund showed a revenue loss of \$29,429,106.

New Business

Board member Todd Tracy discussed the topic of stormwater mitigation banking verses stormwater granting for Dearborn Street. With Mr. Tracy's granting mitigation program the tax payers will save an extensive amount of money. Plus, the freedom of choice and responsibility will become the public's duty. Mr. Tracy explained that the program terms, amounts and conditions will need to be defined so that the granting will be flexible and with the public's input.

Spencer Anderson, P.E., Program Manager for Sarasota County commented on the current stormwater design and compared it to Mr. Tracy's granting mitigation program. Debbie Marks, CRA Coordinator, invited Mr. Anderson to attend the meeting. Discussion ensued.

Comments/Reports

Signage/Landscaping Project: Debbie Marks updated the Board that the sign on 776 and Old Englewood Road was completed. She also informed them that the CRA staff is now working with Kevin Smith, Public Works, and the Environmental Services to create a sign at the intersection of SR 776 and Manasota Beach Road.

RCTOD/Code Changes: Ms. Marks reminded the Advisory Board and the audience about the May 15, 2008 Planning Commission meeting at 6:30pm at the R.L. Anderson Building in Venice. She asked everyone to come and show their support.

Waterfront Properties Update: Debbie Marks explained that she met again with Chuck Listowski from West Coast Inland Navigation District. She commented that they are working with two engineers, and have received some bids. She also elaborated on the designs of the restroom and docks. Ms. Marks apologized for the delay in opening the park; however, she explained her goal is to at least have the picnic shelters built by this fall.

Fund Raising Event for Kiwanis Park: Ms. Marks reminded the Board that CRA staff is working with Russ Kyper and Tom Minnich to have a circus in November as a fund raising event for Kiwanis Park and the Englewood Environmental Learning Center. She invited anyone who is interested to participate; they are always looking for volunteers.

Ms. Marks also invited Kevin Smith, Public Works Facilities to update the Board on the improvements that are taking place at Kiwanis Park. Mr. Smith commented that the design is almost complete and that staff is putting together a package to go to procurement so they can put the project out to bid. After a brief design description Mr. Smith mentioned that he hoped to see some construction activity at the park within three months.

Educational Boat: Ms. Marks commented that the committee is still meeting and working on the specific details such as operation and maintenance.

Veterans Memorial Park: Debbie Marks explained how the committee is meeting with the neighbors and trying to get neighborhood support for the design and concept.

Ms. Marks also informed the CRA Advisory Board that she is working with the owners of the Rinkard House and they want to submit a Store Front Grant application. She mentioned that the application then has to go before three CRA Advisory Board members and an architect. Ms. Marks requested volunteers from the Board, Mary Ellen Diez, Todd Tracy and Harry Colburn offered. Ms. Marks commented that she will move forward with advertising the application review meeting.

Another item that Debbie Marks discussed with the board is how she is helping to facilitate a meeting with concerned parents, such as Tommy Kester, and Englewood Elementary staff on ways to make the school more sustainable and not at risk for closure.

Open to the Public

Tommy Kester asked the Board a question in regards to the boundary lines of the RCTOD, and how to amend the lines. Along with Debbie Marks, Mr. John Fellin from the audience helped to explain the process.

Advisory Board Comments

John Davison commented on funding for CRA projects and how he is hopeful that Sarasota County will locate the money.

Todd Tracy commented on the Stormwater project and business incentives to stimulate the downtown growth without building underground vaults. Chairman Radkins requested to have Mr. Tracy's idea laid out in a paragraph form. Ms. Marks mentioned that she would print something up explaining the concept for the next meeting.

Harry Colburn commented that he is still in favor of the county's Stormwater plan and design for underground vaults. He also suggested that Englewood can become an example of an environmentally friendly community, and everyone should continue to "think green".

Norman Caldwell expressed his appreciation for Don Landis's idea, and feels that *Green Roofs* should be explored further.

John Mead commented that the current Stormwater plan should not be changed this far into the project.

Debbie Marks informed the Board that Chairman Radkins, Mr. Tracy and Mr. Colburn board appointments are all up for renewal on July 1st. She requested that they submit a letter or e-mail

to her with their intentions. Ms. Marks also told the room that this was her one year anniversary, and she thanked everyone for uniting and working together.

John Radkins expressed that ultimately SWFWMD is the one that permits the Stormwater project, so at this time everyone should continue with the current plan.

Stormwater and Green Roof discussion continued with several audience members, including Tommy Kester, Don Landis and Tom Minnich.

Agenda Items

Ms. Marks reminded the 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.

Adjournment

Chairman Radkins adjourned the meeting at 2:47 pm.