

**ENGLEWOOD COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AREA
ADVISORY BOARD (CRA)
Minutes of July 12, 2007, Amended**

A regular meeting of the Englewood Community Redevelopment Area Advisory Board was held on Thursday, July 12, 2007, at 1:00 p.m., at Lemon Bay Park, 570 Bay Park Blvd., Englewood, FL.

Members Present

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

Members Absent

John Davison

Sarasota County Staff Present

Debbie Marks, Interim CRA Coordinator
Elaine Wickwire, Admin. Assistant II, CRA
Spencer Anderson, Environmental Services
Kevin Smith, Facilities

Call to Order

Chairman John Radkins called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. There was a quorum present.

Approval of Minutes

May 10, 2007
May 31, 2007
June 14, 2007

The following amendments were made to the May 10, 2007 draft minutes:

- Page 3, paragraph 5 – add the word “been” between “have” and “heard”
- Page 4, paragraph 9 – add the word “in” between “stored” and “for”

Following discussion regarding several investigative questions contained in the May 10, 2007 and May 31, 2007 draft minutes, Norman Caldwell **moved** to approve the May 10, 2007 minutes, as amended, and the May 31, 2007 minutes, as presented, seconded by Todd Tracy and carried unanimously.

Chairman Radkins stated that the June 14, 2007 draft minutes will be considered at the next advisory board meeting, since Todd Tracy did not have a chance to review them.

Open to the Public

No public comments or questions.

Storm Drain Marking and Recruitment of Volunteers

In the absence of the scheduled speaker, Rene Janneman, Environmental Services, Debbie Marks briefly explained the County’s recently created program that recruits volunteers from local neighborhood associations to assist with marking the street storm drains.

Discussion Items

- **Stormwater** – Spencer Anderson, Stormwater Program Manager, provided an update regarding the stormwater projects in the CRA district, stating that the first phase of design is thirty percent complete and will treat the West Dearborn Street business district from McCall Road to Old Englewood Road. Once completed, the regional system will allow denser development along the business district corridor and allow the property owner to redevelop on nearly one hundred percent of their property. The second phase is currently in the feasibility study stage and will address the residential portions of the CRA district.

Mr. Anderson and Ms. Marks explained to the advisory board that the cost of the entire project will be approximately seven million dollars and that discussions are underway to work out the details of paying for it. Ms. Marks informed the advisory board that the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) has said that there would need to be some sort of cost sharing on the part of developers and property owners. The details of the project's financial picture should be clearer by the end of 2007.

Ms. Marks requested that owners of property on Dearborn Street that haven't yet met with the County regarding the stormwater project see her after the meeting. She also stated that the project would not cause disruptions on the street because the work will come in from the side streets.

- **Signage** - Ms. Marks stated that construction on the gateway welcome sign on East Dearborn Street should begin around August 1st. She also informed the advisory board that she and Kevin Smith are working to possibly locate the second gateway sign near the intersection of SR 776 and Manasota Beach Road close to the scrub jay sign. She will provide an update on it at the August meeting.
- **Restroom Security Cameras** - Ms. Marks provided financial information regarding the installation and monitoring of security cameras at the Cedar Street public restroom. She stated that the cost of installing four cameras and video system for the restrooms would be \$3,250. Citing information from the Sheriff's office, she informed the board that, in order to be effective, the camera would need to be monitored. She also noted that the BCC has stated that they will not approve funding for a ~~camera monitor~~ person to monitor a camera. Discussion ensued regarding the installation of a "dummy" camera to deter potential vandals.

Kevin Smith added additional information regarding the relationship between the number and angle of cameras installed and the "blind spots" that can result. The advisory board unanimously agreed to take no further action on this subject.

Ms. Marks also reported on the following:

CRA Financial Plan -Staff has provided the BCC with preliminary ideas regarding CRA project bonding. However, the CRA will not be able to bond until after the January referendum regarding the "Super Exemption" versus the "Save Our Home". She would like for the advisory board to prioritize the balance of the projects in the CRA Plan at the August meeting in order to be able to put the projects into a program that will identify which year the various projects can be accomplished. She will provide a chart listing the projects to the

members before the meeting. Mary Ellen Diez stated that she would not be able to attend the August meeting and will provide her priorities and comments to Staff beforehand. The bonding package will be presented to the advisory board at a future meeting.

Residential/Commercial Transition Overlay District (RCTOD) – ~~Reported that~~ Vivian Roe of Stantec Consulting is currently working on the update to the RCTOD and hopefully the neighborhood workshop will be held during the second week of August. Following the workshop, the update will be submitted to the Planning Department for processing.

Waterfront Property Rezones - Neighborhood workshops will be scheduled in August for the rezoning of the two Cherokee Street properties, the Perry Street and Southwind properties and the Harbor Lane property.

Cedar Street Parking Lot - The gravel on the Cedar Street parking lot will be graded and rolled in order to pack the loose gravel tighter for pedestrian safety purposes. The cost of the project will be \$975.00. The parking lot will be paved with asphalt when the stormwater project is finished.

Staff Comments/Reports

Ms. Marks reported on the BCC meeting that was held on July 11, 2007. She stated that the Board set the public hearing for the CRA Plan update for August 28, 2007. They also authorized staff to continue working with the Lemon Bay Playhouse regarding a Performing Arts Center.

Open to the Public

Ms. Joyce Colmar requested information regarding the proposed amendments to the Englewood Town Center Plan. Ms. Marks responded that it is one of the items that will have to be prioritized and it will come from the CRA's operating budget. It may need to be contracted out. ~~amendments to the Revitalization Plan will need to be contracted out and that cost will come from the CRA's operating budget.~~

Mr. Jim Hanushek thanked the CRA advisory board and the BCC for expressing their support for a performing arts center on Dearborn Street.

Mr. Peter Laurin, representing Olde Englewood Village Homeowners Association, requested a letter of recommendation from the advisory board for Shady Haven Mobile Home Park and Royal Palm Marina to be considered for the County's Parkland Acquisition Program. Following discussion regarding the appropriateness of the advisory board sending a letter of recommendation to the Parks Advisory Board for this purpose, Ms. Marks said that she would check with the County Attorney's office for the answer and report on it at the next meeting.

Ms. Joyce Giordano commented on Mr. Laurin's request, saying it would be irresponsible of the advisory board to provide their recommendation without prior public input.

Advisory Board Comments

John Mead, Norman Caldwell and Todd Tracy expressed their pleasure that projects are now starting to move forward and that the plan update process is almost complete.

Mary Ellen Diez stated that she is assembling a group of local artists to decoratively paint the newly installed bicycle racks. She also reported that she has recruited four members of a committee and is waiting on the decision of a fifth person to start planning the Veteran's Memorial Garden project. Elaine Wickwire stated that since the project will now be centered on one of the waterfront park sites, Ms. Diez's committee should also be included in any planning meetings regarding the development of such.

Harry Colburn requested that the advisory board support the efforts of the Corridor Advocacy Group (CAG) that is currently applying for State scenic highway designation for SR 776, which is being called the Lemon Bay/Myakka Trail Scenic Highway designation. Ms. Wickwire explained that the goals and objectives of the CAG echo those of the CRA plan in many ways. She stated that Mr. Colburn has resigned from the CAG due to time constraints and asked if someone from the advisory board would like to take his place and start attending the meetings. She also invited anyone from the community interested in becoming involved with the group to attend the meetings.

John Radkins thanked everyone for attending the meeting and becoming involved.

Adjournment

Hearing no further business, Chairman Radkins adjourned the meeting at 1:50 p.m.