

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

A regular meeting of the Englewood Community Redevelopment Area Advisory Board was held on Thursday, April 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
Mary Ellen Diez
John Davison
Norman Caldwell
Todd Tracy
John Mead

Staff Present

Christine Davis, CRA Coordinator
Elaine Wickwire, Admin. Asst. II

Others Present

Ted Brovitz, Stantec Consulting Services
Vivian Roe, Stantec Consulting Services

Call to Order

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

Approval of Minutes

Following corrections made by Todd Tracy, Mary Ellen Diez **moved** to approve the minutes of the March 8, 2007 meeting, as amended, seconded by John Mead. The motion carried unanimously.

Open to the Public

Following comments by Chris Davis regarding the Perry Street property concept plans, the following audience members provided input:

Mr. Richard Davidson, 28 Southwind Drive, Englewood, stated that a park is not needed at the end of Perry Street/Southwind Drive.

Mr. Michael Fiorillo, 761 W. Perry Street, Englewood, invited the Advisory Board members to his home to observe what he would see if a park were placed on the Perry Street/Southwind Drive property. He submitted photographs of Indian Mound Park and asked several questions, based on the published concept drawings of a proposed park, regarding security, trash, alcohol, maintenance, hours of operation and restroom facilities.

Mr. Peter Laurin, member of the Olde Englewood Village Homeowner's Association (OEVHA), commended Stantec Consulting Services, CRA Staff and the Advisory Board on a fine plan. He stated that there should be a strong emphasis on preserving the environment of the entire Englewood area, and that the County should provide buffers, increased maintenance and police patrols to the smaller parks such as Cherokee Street.

Mr. John Quinn, President of OEVHA, stated that the members are interested in the inclusion of effective initiatives aimed at neighborhood preservation.

He stressed that the redevelopment plan, the Town Center Plan, the Main Street Overlay District (MSOD), and the Residential/Commercial Overlay District (RCTOD) should reflect these initiatives.

Mr. Earl Smithern, 9 Southwind Drive, Englewood, discussed his concerns with safety between motorized and non-motorized boats in the basin located at the end of Perry Street/Southwind Drive.

Mrs. Dell Smithern, 9 Southwind Drive, Englewood, discussed her concerns with the possibility of increased traffic and noise in the area if a park is placed on the Perry Street/Southwind Drive property.

Mrs. Barb Jacobson, 21 Southwind Drive, Englewood, stated that a park on the Perry Street/Southwind Drive property would change the neighborhood forever. She added that she wouldn't like to see overdevelopment of the property. Chris Davis responded that neighborhood meetings will take place before any plans are put into place.

Mr. Lou Bakken, 46 Southwind Drive, Englewood, supports Mrs. Jacobson's letter to the CRA office. He also stated that he appreciates the forward thinking and long range planning that the County uses on matters such as parks. He would like to see the County and the Perry Street/Southwind Drive neighborhood come up with a joint plan that would serve the purpose of a small park.

Mr. Don Platt, an eighty-four year resident of Englewood, provided a short history of Englewood and stated that the bayfront street ends from Stewart Street to Dearborn Street were deeded to Sarasota County with the understanding that they would be protected as public access points to Lemon Bay.

He also provided information to the Board regarding the Perry Street property that the CRA is in the process of purchasing. He said that at one time, he owned this property, the submerged lands in front of the lot and the adjacent marina. When he dredged the marina, he used the fill for the land that the house currently sits on. He also built the seawall above the required minimum standards, with six inch thickness, thirty-seven hundred pound cement and 5/8 inch steel.

Mr. Platt expressed his desire for the CRA to purchase all the waterfront property they could in order to compliment Olde Englewood Village and provide public waterfront access to the residents.

Update of East Dearborn Street Project

Chris Davis provided an updated report on the East Dearborn Street Road Project from Paula McGrath, PBS & J Project Administrator. She stated that the project is currently 11.5% complete on time. The upcoming work will include a continuation of the stormwater pipe installation as well as underground utilities and backfill for the road bed. Work on the new bridge will commence within the next two weeks.

Ms. Davis also relayed the message that road closures would only take place when the large crane needs to be moved from one side of the bridge to the other.

Discussion of Veteran's Memorial Garden

Mary Ellen Diez explained the Veteran's Memorial Garden, Project No. 19 in the Redevelopment Plan. She stated that the garden was funded and slated for a specific location, but the County Commissioners approved moving the project to one of the CRA's bayfront properties in order to eliminate the need for another parcel purchase. Ms. Diez requested that the advisory board authorize her to form a subcommittee to plan for this project and recruit community members to assist. Chairman Radkins authorized the subcommittee. Ms. Diez also requested assistance from the various veterans groups and other members of the community. She will provide the CRA office with names of the subcommittee members when it is formed.

Discussion of Members' Priority Projects

Chairman Radkins asked the advisory board to name their top five to seven project priorities, as was suggested by County Administrator Jim Ley at the joint meeting of the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) and the CRA Advisory Board. The results are as follows:

John Davison – waterfront development at the end of Dearborn Street with dock space; water taxi facility to Blind Pass Park; performing arts center

John Mead – stormwater system; relocation of overhead utilities on Dearborn Street; waterfront parks; performing arts center

Mary Ellen Diez – stormwater system; waterfront parks; relocation of overhead utilities on Dearborn Street

Todd Tracy – performing arts center; completion of the revisions to the Town Center Plan and establishment of the Residential/Commercial Transition Overlay District; stormwater system; mandatory architectural guidelines; relocation of overhead utilities on Dearborn Street; gateway signage

Norman Caldwell – would like to see timelines and deadlines set on all of the projects; mandatory architectural and landscaping guidelines in the entire CRA District; performing arts center

Harry Colburn – stormwater system; parking plan; performing arts center; mandatory architectural guidelines; revisions to the Town Center Plan; landscaping; tree canopy (Mr. Colburn stated that, in his opinion, a water taxi and development of waterfront parks is low priority.)

John Radkins – stormwater system; parking; relocation of overhead utilities; hiring of manager; gateway signage

Chairman Radkins stated he will compile the list in a letter and send it Ms. Davis to forward to the BCC and County Administration. Harry Colburn **moved** to authorize the Chairman to

statistically consolidate the board's list of project priorities into a recommendation letter to the BCC, seconded by Mary Ellen Diez. Todd Tracy stressed that progress needs to be made on each of the top five projects at each meeting in the future. Mr. Tracy read a letter from Janet Landis, President of the Olde Englewood Village Association (OEVA), regarding OEVA's top priority redevelopment projects. The motion carried unanimously.

Update of Redevelopment Plan – Ted Brovitz, Stantec Consulting Services

Mr. Ted Brovitz spoke to the concerns of the Perry Street/Southwind Drive residents regarding the preliminary concept plan of the neighborhood park. He stated that the concept plan was drawn from feedback and ideas received at public meetings that Stantec held. He assured everyone that he will be happy to change the concept plan for the park. Responding to several comments, Mr. Brovitz continued to assure members of the audience that more public input would be gathered before a final plan is put into place.

Following a lengthy discussion regarding the expansion of Stantec's scope of services, Mr. Brovitz stated that Stantec has submitted a scope to process a rezone petition to implement the RCTOD and amend the Englewood Town Center Revitalization Plan, as required. However, Mr. Brovitz and Ms. Davis stated that the County Administrator would like County staff to complete the rezone process.

It was determined that a meeting needs to be scheduled with County Planning staff, Zoning staff, a representative from Stantec and the MSOD subcommittee to discuss the changes that the subcommittee recommended. Following the meeting, Stantec will be able to put together a scope of services for changes to the Architectural Design Guidelines and the MSOD. Ms. Davis reminded everyone that the BCC would like the form based code taken into account. After comments by Vivian Roe, Stantec Consulting Services and Elaine Sanchez-Miller, Chairman Radkins requested that Ms. Roe arrange the meeting.

Ms. Davis and Ms. Roe clarified County policy regarding the CRA's use of another County department's continuing service contract.

Staff Reports/Comments

Chris Davis provided an update on marketing activities that have recently been taking place with the help of Odato Marketing Group, such as radio spots and the creation and promotion of a second website at www.inglewood-fl.us. She also reported that the CRA's annual report is completed and is online at www.scgov.net/hometownenglewood.

Following discussion, a special meeting was set for April 25, 2007 at 1:00 p.m. at Lemon Bay Park to review more sections of the draft plan and the CRA operational budget.

Open to the Public

Mr. Bill Tryder, President of the Arts Alliance of Lemon Bay, requested information regarding the RCTOD. Ted Brovitz and Vivian Roe responded. Mr. Tryder also read a letter to the advisory board requesting financial assistance in the amount of \$1,000 related to the Alliance's annual art chair auction. Chris Davis responded that all of the CRA's marketing funds are

