

DRAFT

Englewood Redevelopment Area (CRA)

Advisory Board Meeting

Meeting Minutes of Thursday, June 9, 2011 1:00 p.m.

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Mary Ellen Diez called to order the regular meeting of the Englewood Community Redevelopment Area (CRA) Advisory Board at 1:01 p.m. on Thursday, June 9, 2011, at the CRA Office, 101 North Orange Street, Englewood, FL 34223.

II. Roll Call

Present: Mary Ellen Diez - Chairperson, John Mead – Vice Chair, John Davison, Norman Caldwell, John Radkins, Don Landis and Todd Tracy.

Sarasota County Staff Present

Jane Grogg, Operational Management
Amy Wood, Administrative Assistant II

III. Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting

Chairperson Diez asked for approval of the April 14, 2011 minutes, asking for two last name corrections on section III and the change of the word grant to block under the Speaker 3 section.

Motion: To accept the February 10, 2011 minutes as written with three corrections.

Action: Unanimously Approve. **Moved by** John Radkins **Seconded by** Norm Caldwell.

IV. Old Business

Discussion ensued on the 2012 Budget.

John David requested that the budget showed income so that there was something to compare. Mary Ellen Diez explained that Debbie Marks was sick and is available by phone to address any specific questions. Jane Grogg stepped in to clarify as much as possible on Debbie's behalf.

Mary Ellen Diez asked if there were time restraints if the board wanted to make changes to the budget. Jane Grogg explained that the Englewood CRA budget, along with all county wide budgets, were going before the Board of County Commissioners for approval on May 29th. The BCC may ask for specific changes to

certain budgets, though overall, if approved, next year's budget will be set upon approval.

Todd Tracy asked if there was a website that had an accessible budget. Jane explained that there was, but the information was not as detailed. Todd explained that he would like to know more about the capital projects and requested a monthly update on spending so that the board was more aware of the spending. Jane Grogg identified and offered the documents that she and Debbie receive on a monthly bases that allowed them to oversee the budget. Mary Ellen Diez requested an agenda item be put on the August 11 agenda so the board could discuss different reports they would like to see.

A discussion ensued on specific line items in the budget. Jane Grogg explained many of the county acronyms and explained how it affected the budget.

A discussion ensued on county employment. Jane Grogg explained for her department specifically, staffing decisions were requested by herself and Debbie Marks, though final decisions were made by management above them.

V. Comments/Reports

Mary Ellen Diez announced that the Rezoning of the Green Street Parking lot and property directly east of the Barber shop on Dearborn Street, both re-zoned to Government Use (GU) and both approved by the Board of County Commissions.

Lemon Bay Sunrise Rotary: John Mead handed out the Cajun Festival posters and explained the fireworks would be set off at middle beach over the bay at 9:00 p.m. Todd Tracy thanked Mr. Mead and expressed how he thought this was a great thing.

Pioneer Day Parade and Festival, September 5, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Eric Phelps asked about the flyers and explained that because of the increasing popularity, they were trying to make this a 2 week event and print flyers to advertise outside of Sarasota County. There was a question on bids to print flyers for the Spirit of Englewood and Mary Ellen Diez said that she would follow up with Debbie Marks and follow up with Mr. Phelps. Eric added that the parade would be set up almost the same as last year and that some of the events included Cardboard Boat Racing, Toddler Crawl, Englewood Idle and the Shipwreck Dance. His goal is to have as many organizations participate as possible. Mary Ellen Diez recommended a Casino Night as an event and John Mead offered the equipment for the event.

VI. Open to the Public

Speaker 1: Harry Taylor with L&T Engineering Group Inc. spoke on behalf of his client Eugene Pilaf concerning Lot 10 & 11(Green Street). He explained that his client would like to develop the lots so in the future a more intense development could occur. At this time the future plan is a duplex for single family rental. There

was a clarification of the location of the property and that it is not in the Residential/Commercial Transition Overlay District (RCTOD) area boundaries which limit the boards influence. A question to how high the landowner can rezone too was raised along with an explanation to whatever the result, will limit the opinions of the group. Jane Grogg explained that she would need to follow up with this question and Mr. Taylor after she refers to the future land use map.

VII. Board Comments

- a) Mary Ellen Diez – A discussion ensued to the best time to bring up the following. Explanation began, Ms. Diez explained that Dawn Kennedy was at the Board of County Commission meeting opposing the rezoning request that went in front of the BCC. Specifically the area affecting her business, Café de La Bay. The back is landlocked. Ms. Kennedy has been denied access to a legal easement from the adjacent property owner and is concerned that the parking situation will suffer greatly. A suggestion was to add a sidewalk that would provide pedestrian access to the restaurant. Possibly add some signage and eventually re-educate the patrons on the available access. A discussion ensued on Ms. Kennedy's behalf and Ms. Diez expressed here disappointment that Ms. Kennedy did not attend the Englewood CRA Board Meeting. Ms. Diez also explained that her purpose for addressing this subject was to ease some of the pressure and let the restaurant owners know that the Englewood CRA Advisory Board cares and would like to help with suggestions.

The Englewood CRA Board continued the discussion along with the expertise of Stefan Theonis, Project Engineer with DMK, our Low Impact Design Consultants and Mr. John Fellin, specifically a discussion ensued on the explanation of major and minor projects along with the clarification the Board of County Commissions has already approved the project and little changes are able to be made at this time.

A motion was made by John Davison to recommend the design change on behalf of the Café de La Bay owners. Norman Caldwell seconded the motion.

Discussion ensued and the motion was withdrawn.

At the conclusion, the board decided to support the hired consultants (experts) along with Debbie Marks as a project manager and expressed their understanding for Ms. Kennedy's concern.

- b) John Mead – Introduced Rob Stern, Lemon Bay Sunrise Rotary, explained the Fourth of July Cajon Festival event. There will be gumbo, red beans and rice, beer Truck, Mullet Toss, Games and a Band from 1-7 p.m. Mr. Stern explained the he was still requesting firework donations if anyone knew of a source.
- c) John Davison – Expressed that Debbie has his full support to work with the architect and her ability to resolve the Café de La Bay owners concerns. He also explained that he felt the board has lost control of what they are trying to do. The board is now being told what to do and not asked for input.

- d) Norman Caldwell – Stated that we are not helping the president increase employment in Sarasota County very well. Interested in seeing what Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) is doing about the Venice Memorial. Wants to get moving and appreciates what staff is doing.
- e) John Radkins – Thought that this meeting was nice and spirited.
- f) Todd Tracy – Expressed that the budget concerns were the boards own fault, they approved a huge budget without addressing the questions first.
- g) Don Landis – Would like an update from the architect on SWFWMD. Elaine Miller explained that Regional Storm Water District has been disbanded into one statewide district. We have not received a check but assuming everything stays on track, we should receive money relatively soon.

VIII. Agenda Items for August 11, 2011, 1:00 p.m.

Discuss different reports the board would like to see.

IX. Adjournment

Chairman Diez adjourned the meeting at 2:26 p.m.

Non-Board member sign-in attendance count: 10