

Englewood Redevelopment Area (CRA)
Advisory Board Meeting
Meeting Minutes of Thursday, April 14, 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, April 14, 2011, at the CRA Office, 101 North Orange Street, Englewood, FL 34223.

II. Roll Call

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

John Mead – Vice Chair, was not able to attend.

Sarasota County Staff Present

Debbie Marks, CRA Coordinator
Jodi Morris, Administrative Specialist
Amy Wood, Administrative Assistant II

III. Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting

Chairperson Diez asked for approval of the February 10, 2011 minutes, asking for one correction to be made second to last page, the correction to the spelling of Southwind.

Motion: To accept the February 10, 2011 minutes as written with one correction.

Action: Unanimously Approve. **Moved by** John Radkins, **Seconded by** Don Landis.

IV. Open to the Public

Speaker 1: Jean Airey, Treasure of the Pioneer Days Committee, gave an update of the upcoming events to promote the “Spirit of Englewood”. She requested funds from the Advisory Board for funding to print the flyers needed to advertise the upcoming events. The events will include such activities as cardboard boat racing, shipwrecked dance and a fishing tournament. Chris announced the specifics of the dance and that the Shipwrecked Dance location will be announced a week before with the location being based on the number of participants.

Board Questions:

Mary Ellen Deiz asked how the committee planned to budget the printing cost and the estimated cost request. Jean Airey explained the needs for the brochures were in the thousands and asked for at least \$1,000.00 from the advisory board to fund

the printing. Todd Tracy recommended that if the cost could stay below \$1,000 that one of their mini grants may help with the printing costs. Debbie Marks replied that she would need 3 quotes before the board could approve the distribution of the money. Mary Ellen Deiz recommended that Ms. Airey begin the process to apply for a mini grant. Debbie said that she would follow up and look into the 3 quotes.

Speaker 2: Betty Nugent from Sarasota County Historic Commission provided information about Sarasota County History Month in May. The upcoming event will be on May 2nd at Phillippi Creek, will be the dedication of the old farm house located on the plaques that will be given to old houses within Sarasota County.

Speaker 3: Jim Pivovar of F.A.M.E. identified the goals of his program and the successes of the previous block party including the money raised for the local schools. He also expressed some of the resistance and requested the ability to have a second block party.

Board Response:

Debbie Marks identified the complaints from the previous party which included the street closure and alcohol. She also explained that the decision to not have a second party came directly from the County Administrator, Jim Ley. Conversation pursued. Debbie recommended that if Mr. Pivovar was interested in pursuing another party, he needed to have a signature from all the merchants and businesses so that she could provide evidence to Mr. Ley that the merchants and businesses supported F.A.M.E. having another street party.

John Radkins encouraged Mr. Pivovar explaining that most of the merchants like street parties because it helps their sales and that he didn't see there being much resistance. Todd Tracy reminded the attendees that the board does not have the authority to approve the event. Mary Ellen Diez asked Debbie Marks to provide Mr. Pivovar with information on how to begin. Debbie agreed.

V. Old Business

There was none at this time.

VI. New Business

- I. **2012 Budget:** Debbie Marks explained the changes throughout the 2012 Budget and Marketing Plan. She also explained that contracting will become harder in the future per new county regulations.
 - Todd Tracy asked what happened to unused funds. Debbie explained that any access funds are not lost and that they go into the CRA reserves that go into general projects the following year.

- Todd Tracy asked to clarify the inconsistency in the budget. Debbie Marks explained that some P.O.'s were paid monthly, some every other month, this caused the inconsistency because it is a running total.
- Todd Tracy asked if the advisory board decided to support F.A.M.E., should the board add them to the budget now. Debbie Marks replied yes as long as the board agreed, although she would prefer a mini grant.
- Debbie Marks also expressed her concern with supporting the fireworks at Cherokee Park last year and the Music Festival. She was just informed that these may be "for profit" events and is looking into the event and waiting for a response.
- A discussion perused on the decision to keep and discontinue the use of certain publications.
- Per John Davison's request, Debbie Marks will submit last year's budget for the board to compare.
- Todd Tracy requested a quarterly update in which Debbie Marks was happy to provide.
- Debbie Marks explained the complications of the South West Florida Management District Staff (SWFWMD) grant and expressed how she still felt encouraged in receiving the money since the Englewood project has been ranked number one on SWFWMD priorities.

- II. **CRA Meeting Schedule:** Debbie Marks requested that the board meeting be moved to every other month. She also explained that the board can always meet under emergency situations. The board discussed the concerns and approved ultimately deciding on every other month meetings with monthly updates through e-mails, phone calls and updating the website.

Motion: To accept the future advisory board meetings be held every other month.
Moved by Todd Tracy **Seconded by** Norman Caldwell. **Action:** Unanimously Approve.
 The next meeting will be June 9, 2011

VII. Comments/Reports

- The rezoning for the 2 parking lots are before the Planning Commission this evening, Debbie invited anyone available to come out and support the rezoning.
- The Veterans Memorial Freedom Pavilion rezoning will be filed in the next few weeks. The plans were just received from the architect and engineer.
- Commercial General Zoning District Rezone has been filed and is in process with the Planning Department.
- A code amendment is underway that will allow parking lots in the Governmental Use Zone District.
- Debbie Marks will notify the advisory board when the rezoning goes in front of the Board of County Commissioners, she believes it is May 25 but will verify.

- Englewood Center for Sustainability is working to bring more classes to the facility. The Grand Opening for the Community Garden is this Tuesday, April 19th, where you will be able to reserve a plot. Debbie thanked Todd and Mary for all of their help with the garden. Information on future classes was provided.
- Debbie requested \$300.00 to help with paying for an informational sign at the Englewood Center for Sustainability. The Advisory Board supported the expenditures.
- The engineers for Cherokee Park updated Debbie Marks that the documents almost ready to resubmit to the state and is expecting a 60 day turn around
- John Davidson currently does not have an update for his Annual New Year's Eve Mullet Drop but is working on it.

VIII. Open to Public

There was none at this time.

IX. Board Comments

- a) Don Landis – Expressed his concerns with the state government and problems he has had locating a needed form.
- b) Norman Caldwell – States his suspicion of anymore paperwork and Government in our business.
- c) Todd Tracy – Thanked everyone for coming and expressed how he will miss meeting monthly but expressed his understanding and encouraged attendance at future meetings.
- d) John Radkins – Thought that is was encouraging that we were able to lower the budget.
- e) John Davison – Asked about Harbor Lane. Debbie Marks explained how she has to prepare the permit to file DEP and that once Harbor Lane is rezoned, advertising can begin. She is expecting this property to be rezone 4 by May 25, 2011. A discussion pursued. Debbie Marks then explained the process of naming the park and the responsibilities of Parks and Recreations. John also expressed how he felt out of the loop for LID, Debbie explained that the engineers are handling the plans for the bid process then the contract goes to the BCC to be awarded. Mr. Davison lastly expressed how he would like to see plug-ins added for electronic cars before the parking lots are finished versus after.

X. Agenda for June 9, 2011, 1:00 p.m.

XI. Adjournment

Chairman Diez adjourned the meeting at 2:31 p.m.

Non-Board member sign-in attendance count: 12