

# Englewood Redevelopment Area (CRA)

## Advisory Board Meeting

Meeting Minutes of January 8, 2009 1:00PM

### Members Present

Chair John Davison  
Vice Chair Todd Tracy  
Norman Caldwell  
Harry Colburn  
Mary Ellen Diez  
John Mead  
John Radkins

### Members Absent

None

### Sarasota County Staff Present

Debbie Marks, CRA Coordinator  
Corie Haring, CRA Admin. Assistant

## I. Call to order

Chair John Davison called to order the regular meeting of the Englewood Redevelopment Area (CRA) Advisory Board at 1:00 PM on Thursday January 8, 2009 located at the CRA office, 101 North Orange Street, Englewood, FL 34223.

## II. Roll call

CRA Coordinator, Debbie Marks called roll. The following Board members were present; Chair John Davison, Vice-Chair Todd Tracy, John Radkins, Mary Ellen Diez, Norman Caldwell, Harry Colburn, John Mead. All board members present.

## III. Approval of minutes from last meeting

Chair Davison asked for approval of the December 11, 2008 minutes. A correction on page two, under the section Advisor Comments in the last sentence the word *plans* will be changed to *is*. Vice-Chair Tracy motioned to accept as corrected. Chair Davison seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as corrected.

## IV. Open to the public

- a) Guest Dr. Rich Swine, President of Sarasota County Veterans Commission (SCVC) stated he was present today to offer his assistance and the support of the SCVC for the proposed Dearborn Street Veterans Memorial. Dr. Swine said his Commission is a 501C3 and is comprised of all veterans organizations found in Sarasota County including American Legions, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans, and even the Submariners of WWII. We are particularly supportive of our troops now returning home from Iraq and Afghanistan. We will do all we can in terms of time, people and money to assist you with your Memorial.
- b) Resident Betty Nugent informed the Board that there were some concerns from Perry Street and Harbor Lane residents in regard to the Veterans Memorial. Their concerns include whether or not their view would be obstructed, will there be enough parking, and that the architecture is in keeping with the "Cracker style" common to the neighborhood. Ms. Nugent had a signed neighborhood petition in support of closing Harbor Lane to traffic. Board member Mary Ellen Diez asked Ms. Nugent to please join the Veterans Memorial Committee.
- c) Newly elected Sheriff Tom Knight was one of today's guests. Sheriff Knight discussed his background in regards to knowing Englewood and South County. To make sure the

Departments jobs are implemented effectively he is having a staff inspection unit look at what the Department is doing well and where improvements can be made. He said his goal is to have green and white (patrol) cars and green uniforms as a strong presence in the neighborhoods. Sheriff Knight is hiring a Chief Financial Officer to assist with preparation of the budget. He is also forming an Advisory Committee and he assured the audience this region will be represented. The audience and the Board took several minutes to ask questions of Sheriff Knight.

- d) Our second guest, Sarasota County Commissioner Shannon Staub gave a briefing regarding the upcoming adjustments to the budget. Commissioner Staub stated that there are two items that she plans to move forward. First is getting the stormwater project done and second is addressing the widening of the intersection at River Road. Discussion ensued.

## **V. New business**

- a) Ms. Marks reviewed the proposed marketing budget. The Marketing Committee determined that marketing would focus on defining the CRA area as a *destination*. Ms. Marks presented a line by line PowerPoint showing the distribution of budgeted money over several avenues of media. In order to brand the Dearborn Street area artwork is being reworked for use on new billboards and in print ads that include several glossy magazines. This artwork and branding will extend itself to TV commercials and radio spots that are included in the budget. It was suggested by the Board to heavily hit particular events in a short amount of time (a couple days before the event) versus TV/radio spots being spread out over longer periods of time.

## **VI. Old business**

- a) Ms. Marks said that the stormwater bids will be available for the next meeting and explained that this bid will allow engineers to begin looking at the cost of the vault system but now with the incorporation of Low Impact Design (LID).
- b) Cherokee Street Park engineers should have plans back to the CRA office later this month and then the permitting process can begin. Ms. Marks wants the new park restrooms to include "green" aspects.
- c) Ms. Marks explained that last year she and Ms. Pasternak spoke with the Harbor Lane resident's about the Memorial park and the feedback was that the residents *did not* want the road closed. Today Ms. Nugent's petition states the Harbor/Perry resident's prefer closing the road. Board member Mary Ellen Diez is concerned about the cost of closing the road at Harbor. The cost will take money from the Memorial account and could eliminate all available funds to actually create the Memorial. Ms. Diez wondered if we could move forward with the planned Memorial (as an open street.) and petition later to close the street *if necessary*. Many on the Board agreed with moving forward as planned in the Suncoast Architect plans. Ms. Marks will offer a neighborhood meeting to fully explain the plans for the park.

## **VII. Open to the public**

- a) CRA audience member Don Landis spoke inconsideration and in favor of Low Impact Development.

b) CRA audience member Russ Kyper spoke in support of a solar powered ferry and was concerned that this item has been taken off the table. Chair Davison stated that there were precursors such as docks, seawall repairs and surveys needing to take place before the ferry can come up for further discussion. Chair Davison assured Mr. Kyper this would not be a forgotten project.

### **VIII. Board Comments**

- a) Norman Caldwell – He doesn't support the vault system because it only addresses one and half inches of rain. He looks forward to seeing the Veterans Memorial. He is very much in favor of the Playhouse. The military museum moving to our community should continue to be considered.
- b) Vice-Chair Tracy – Referring to Mr. Landis' comment on LID. Proposed the possibility of a stimulus plan for LID. He hopes that it will be possible to redirect vault funding to revitalize Dearborn Street.
- c) Mary Ellen Diez – Referring to Mr. Kypers comments Ms. Diez asked that in consideration of the upcoming budget we need to remember everything that's involved. It will require writing this up as a new program with a proposed budget. Once the proposal is ready it will need to be presented to the Commission and then the CRA Plan will need to be updated. I don't think it will happen this year but perhaps next year.
- d) John Mead – Thank you to those that have been working on the budget.
- e) John Radkins – He looks forward to a report regarding the Veterans Memorial and also stated we need to be very careful how we spend our money because it's possible we may need to have funds available at the end of the year.
- f) Harry Colburn – Referring to the Veterans Memorial - If we close the street I think we could get a significantly better design. The County is looking at the merging of both LID and vaults and this offers the best opportunity for improving the water quality of Lemon Bay, our most important asset. While we are waiting to move forward on the ferry those that are interested could come up with a business plan. That would be the best next step.
- g) Chair Davison – Possibly Elaine Miller could come up with and *either/or* design for the Memorial so we can keep moving forward. He hopes we can do both billboards south of town. Stormwater *must* be addressed and money is a factor. Mr. Davison wants to excite and motivate the community even with our limited budget.

### **IX. Adjournment**

Chair Davison adjourned the meeting at 2:52 PM.

Non-Board member sign-in attendance count; 17