

**ENGLEWOOD COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AREA (CRA)
ADVISORY BOARD
Minutes of May 8, 2008**

A regular meeting of the Englewood Community Redevelopment Area Advisory Board was held on Thursday, May 8, 2008, at 1:00 p.m., at Lemon Bay Park, 570 Bay Park Blvd., Englewood, FL.

Members Present

John Radkins, Chairman
John Davison, Vice-Chairman
Todd Tracy
John Mead
Harry Colburn
Norman Caldwell

Sarasota County Staff Present

Debbie Marks, CRA Coordinator
Spencer Anderson, P.E., Program Manager
Jack Merriam, Manager, Water Resources
Kelly Westover, Environmental Specialist
Kevin Smith, Public Works Facilities

Member Absent

Mary Ellen Diez

Call to Order

Chairman John Radkins called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Roll was taken and John Radkins, John Davison, Todd Tracy, John Mead, Harry Colburn and Norman Caldwell were all present. Mary Ellen Diez was absent. There was a quorum.

Approval of Minutes

April 10, 2008

Chairman Radkins informed the Board members that Todd Tracy had provided staff with corrections prior to the meeting. He also questioned if there were any additional changes to the minutes. Mr. Caldwell noted a change on page three under Advisory Board Comments – first line, the through should be changed to thorough and the change was made.

Mr. Mead made a motion to approve the minutes. Norman Caldwell seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Open to the Public

None.

Discussion Item

“Green Roofs/Stormwater”

Spencer Anderson, P.E., Program Manager, Sarasota County Environmental Services discussed the Englewood CRA Stormwater goal and design. Mr. Anderson revisited the details of the plan

and explained the use of two underground vaults. He also informed the Board of the plan to fill in the current stormwater pond on West Dearborn Street in order to maintain it as public space. Mr. Anderson also expressed that the Stormwater design will be completed in the next 60 days, and staff is getting ready to move ahead with permitting. He also commented on the project's funding, and how Debbie Marks and Sarasota County Staff are extensively exploring options.

After the brief Stormwater description and update, Mr. Anderson commented on the main reason he and the other Environmental Services Staff attended the CRA board meeting was to discuss the use of *Green Roofs*. At this point the county is unable to use *Green Roofs* as a way to control storm water because the regulatory agencies do not acknowledge the technique. However, Sarasota County is working closely with the regulatory agencies to allow them.

Jack Merriam, Manager, Water Resources – Sarasota County elaborated on Mr. Anderson's comments about *Green Roofs*. Mr. Merriam informed the group that he and the county have been exploring low impact development since 2000, and that *Green Roofs* is a technique used in this type of development. The goal for low impact development is to keep as much treatment and storm water on site. By treating the water on site it helps reduce the overall impact on the environment. Mr. Merriam elaborated on the current stormwater requirements. He also discussed how the county and state are creating a manual for low impact development in Florida. This manual will specify standards for design, construction, permitting and maintenance. Sarasota County is also planning on creating a *Green Roof* on a county building in the future in order to observe and monitor the procedure.

Comments/Reports

Request for Assistance: Elizabeth Bryant, Elizabeth Bryant Gallery and Vicki Cole, Kellys II Tavern submitted a letter to the advisory board requesting the support of the CRA staff to help re-zone properties in the 200-300 block of West Dearborn Street, specifically the north side. The property owners would like to keep in line with the overall Town Center Plan and rezone from OPI to Commercial General which would allow for more potential development of the businesses. The business owners also asked the CRA Advisory Board to help with the costs involved in the rezoning process. The current fee for a Sarasota County rezoning application is \$7,500.

Vice Chairman, John Davison made a motion to pay for the re-zoning of the parcels located on the north side of the 200-300 block of West Dearborn Street. A discussion ensued. The Advisory Board questioned why these properties were not originally included in the Town Center Plan. John Fellin from the audience helped to clarify some of the questions because of his past experience as a CRA Advisory Board member. It was also determined that if all the property owners did not want to participate in the rezoning they could be left out of the application. Mr. John Mead seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Signage/Landscaping Project: Debbie Marks updated the Board that the sign on 776 and Old Englewood Road was completed. She also informed them that the CRA staff is now working with Kevin Smith, Public Works, and the Environmental Services to create a sign at the intersection of SR 776 and Manasota Beach Road.

RCTOD/Code Changes: Ms. Marks reminded the Advisory Board and the audience about the May 15, 2008 Planning Commission meeting at 6:30pm at the R.L. Anderson Building in Venice. She asked everyone to come and show their support.

Waterfront Properties Update: Debbie Marks explained that she met again with Chuck Listowski from West Coast Inland Navigation District. She commented that they are working with two engineers, and have received some bids. She also elaborated on the designs of the restroom and docks. Ms. Marks apologized for the delay in opening the park; however, she explained her goal is to at least have the picnic shelters built by this fall.

Fund Raising Event for Kiwanis Park: Ms. Marks reminded the Board that CRA staff is working with Russ Kyper and Tom Minnich to have a circus in November as a fund raising event for Kiwanis Park and the Englewood Environmental Learning Center. She invited anyone who is interested to participate; they are always looking for volunteers.

Ms. Marks also invited Kevin Smith, Public Works Facilities to update the Board on the improvements that are taking place at Kiwanis Park. Mr. Smith commented that the design is almost complete and that staff is putting together a package to go to procurement so they can put the project out to bid. After a brief design description Mr. Smith mentioned that he hoped to see some construction activity at the park within three months.

Educational Boat: Ms. Marks commented that the committee is still meeting and working on the specific details such as operation and maintenance.

Veterans Memorial Park: Debbie Marks explained how the committee is meeting with the neighbors and trying to get a neighborhood support for the design and concept.

Ms. Marks also informed the CRA Advisory Board that she is working with the owners of the Rinkard House and they want to submit a Store Front Grant application. She mentioned that the application then has to go before three CRA Advisory Board members and an architect. Ms. Marks requested volunteers from the Board, Mary Ellen Diez, Todd Tracy and Harry Colburn offered. Ms. Marks commented that she will move forward with advertising the application review meeting.

Another item that Debbie Marks discussed with the board is how she is helping to facilitate a meeting with concerned parents, such as Tommy Kester, and Englewood Elementary staff on ways to make the school more sustainable and not at risk for closure.

Open to the Public

Tommy Kester asked the Board a question in regards to the boundary lines of the RCTOD, and how to amend the lines. Along with Debbie Marks, Mr. John Fellin from the audience helped to explain the process.

Advisory Board Comments

John Davison commented on funding for CRA projects and how he is hopeful that Sarasota County will locate the money.

Todd Tracy commented on the Stormwater project and business incentives to stimulate the downtown growth without building underground vaults. Chairman Radkins requested to have Mr. Tracy's idea laid out in a paragraph form. Ms. Marks mentioned that she would print something up explaining the concept for the next meeting.

Harry Colburn commented that he is still in favor of the county's Stormwater plan and design for underground vaults. He also suggested that Englewood can become an example of an environmentally friendly community, and everyone should continue to "think green".

Norman Caldwell expressed his appreciation for Don Landis's idea, and feels that *Green Roofs* should be explored further.

John Mead commented that the current Stormwater plan should not be changed this far into the project.

Debbie Marks informed the Board that Chairman Radkins, Mr. Tracy and Mr. Colburn board appointments are all up for renewal on July 1st. She requested that they submit a letter or e-mail to her with their intentions. Ms. Marks also told the room that this was her one year anniversary, and she thanked everyone for uniting and working together.

John Radkins expressed that ultimately SWFWMD is the one that permits the Stormwater project, so at this time everyone should continue with the current plan.

Stormwater and Green Roof discussion continued with several audience members, including Tommy Kester, Don Landis and Tom Minnich.

Agenda Items

Ms. Marks reminded the Board that Jeff Seward, Sarasota County Chief Financial Planning Officer has offered to update the board at the June 12, 2008 Advisory Board meeting on the county budget.

Adjournment

Chairman Radkins adjourned the meeting at 2:47 pm.