

**ENGLEWOOD COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AREA (CRA)
ADVISORY BOARD
Minutes of October 9, 2008**

A regular meeting of the Englewood Community Redevelopment Area Advisory Board was held on Thursday, October 9, 2008, at 1:01 p.m., at the CRA Office, 101 N. Orange Street, Englewood, Florida

<u>Members Present</u>	<u>Sarasota County Staff Present</u>
John Radkins, Chair	Debbie Marks, CRA Coordinator
John Davison, Vice-Chair	Corie Haring, CRA Staff Assistant
Harry Colburn	
Mary Ellen Diez	<u>Members Absent</u>
Todd Tracy	Norman Caldwell
John Mead	

Call to Order

Chair John Radkins called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. Roll call was taken and John Davison, Mary Ellen Diez, John Mead, Todd Tracy, and Harry Colburn were present. Norman Caldwell was absent. There was a quorum.

Approval of Minutes

Chair Radkins asked for a motion to approve the minutes of September 11, 2008 as published. Todd Tracy made the motion, second by John Davison. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Open to the Public

No speaker cards were presented.

Special Guest

Carol Gallagher, friend of Mary Ellen was here to visit.

New Business

With a review of project priorities and the introduction of the LID (Low Impact Design) project the \$6 million budget earmarked for the storm water vault system may in part become available for other projects.

Debbie Marks noted that there is \$1.5 million in the existing stormwater CIP. If it is determined by the County Engineers that the LID principles will reduce the size of the proposed vaults or the need at all, these funds could be utilized for LID projects or other projects as prioritized by the board. Once the funds are freed up we will be able to move forward as quickly as possible without a need of another Board meeting.

The CRA priority list begins with “*Create a water front park at Harbor Lane*”. Chair Radkins asked if we have the funds ready to go for this project. Debbie Marks explained

that Harbor Lane is not funded, but we do have a \$200,000 capitol improvement project for the Veterans Memorial Garden. Cherokee Street property has approximately \$87,000.00 available and that's not including \$230,000.00 from West Coast Inter-navigational Water District's grant money.

Continuing with the top priorities list; *PI-1 storm water, PI-2 relocate overhead utility PI-3 parking for the Englewood town center including on and off street parking, PI-4 the development of a performing arts center and PI-5 the development of all other parks.* Way-finding and signage is also on the priorities list. This is a potentially low cost item and we currently have \$25,000 in the operating budget. Debbie explained that the signage committee will be meeting soon and they will be giving an update to the Advisory Board.

Mary Ellen Diez asked the Board and Debbie Marks to look at the priority list and view what can be removed from the list. Discussion was tabled until the next meeting.

Todd Tracy mentioned that he felt more events should be organized for Dearborn and asked if the advertising budget could be expanded from other areas of the budget. Debbie Marks stated that this line item was actually increased to \$81,000 with this 2009 budget.

Debbie Marks hoped to have storm water information for the Board in about three weeks. The manual that the staff and others have written is finished. Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFMUD is reviewing the document.) She also noted that SWFMUD will currently review plans for development utilizing LID principles if submitted.

Elaine Miller - Discussion regarding the LID matching fund for a study of Dearborn St. stormwater ensued. At this time the money designated for the study may be held until another proposal is brought forward next month.

Debbie Marks – The seawall at the Harbor location is in need of repair and an engineer has reviewed the site and bids will go out soon. This is part of the work being done by West Coast Inter-navigational Water District's grant.

Mary Ellen Diez – (Veterans Memorial Park Committee Chair) noted that she has a meeting with Englewood Bank to arrange a trust for the incoming funds for the project.

Corie Haring – After comparing the four bids for a security alarm system for the restrooms John Davison made a motion, seconded by Todd Tracy to purchase and install the Dehart Alarm System with an added third camera. After further discussion Chair Radkins called the question and the **motion passed unanimously**.

Debbie Marks – mentioned that the Buchans Fly-In will be this Saturday. On the 17th of October the Kaleidoscope of the Arts will take place.

Debbie Marks – The Halloween Safewalk is this month on the 31st and this year we will have a costume contest and a DJ. Motion was made by John Mead, seconded by Todd

Tracy to allow staff to spend \$300.00 on Halloween candy for the Safewalk. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Debbie Marks - A local resident that works as a human cannon ball could lend his talent as an event for Dearborn Street. Staff is looking for sponsors for the event.

Open to the Public

Jim Hanushek – The Kaleidoscope flyers do included recognition of the CRA.

Don Landis - -There are new seats at the playhouse.

Advisory Board Comments

John Mead – No comment

Mary Ellen Diez – Supported Harry’s comment about the new email system.

Harry Colburn – Our new county email addresses could easily present Sunshine Law problems.

John Davison – Thanked everyone for helping. He further noted that all of the neighboring communities should be thanked and he was excited that things are finally getting done.

Todd Tracy – Progress is being made and I like the idea of working on some of the smaller needs pertaining to events on Dearborn Street.

John Radkins – I agree with Todd about marketing to our immediate area given the state of the economy more people are not going far from home to find entertainment.

Agenda items for November 13, 2008 meeting

Discussion about the priority list and determine which ones (if any) are no longer relevant.

Adjourned

Chair Radkins adjourned the meeting at 1:59 pm.