

**ENGLEWOOD COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AREA
ADVISORY BOARD (CRA)
Minutes of January 12, 2006 Meeting**

A meeting of the Englewood Community Redevelopment Area Advisory Board (CRA) was held on Thursday, January 12, 2006, at Lemon Bay Park, 570 Bay Park Blvd., Englewood, FL at 9:30 a.m.

Members Present

Mary Ellen Diez, Chairwoman
John Fellin, Vice-Chairman
Lise Yust
John Radkins
David Senkpiel

Staff Present

Rob Lewis, Executive Director, Sarasota County
Planning & Development Services
Jane Grogg, Core Service Project Coordinator
Elaine Wickwire, AAIL, Englewood CRA

Members Absent

Robert Collins

Others Present

Shannon Staub, Sarasota County Commissioner
Robert Gray, Strategic Planning Group, Inc.
Dr. Bill Coy, Lemon Bay League
Tom Minnich, Southwest County Alliance of
Homeowner's Associations

Call to Order

Chairwoman Diez called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. There was a quorum present.

Approval of Minutes

The approval of the November 2005 and December 2005 meeting minutes was deferred to the February 2006 meeting.

Guest Speakers

- Mr. Rob Lewis, Executive Director, Sarasota County Planning & Development Services, provided his background and discussed his direct obligation to the Englewood community, the advisory board and the County Commissioners to execute Board policy that has been established for the Englewood CRA. He explained various administrative changes that have taken place in order to accomplish this, which include adding a full-time staff position to the CRA office and enlisting the help of several County staff members to work on various projects with Chris Davis.

Mr. Lewis handed out a CRA project spreadsheet which will be added to the County's website within the next thirty days in order to provide the community with up-to-date progress reports. He also stated that communication efforts will improve with the addition of Warren Richardson, the County's Communication Manager.

- Ms. Jane Grogg, Manager, Sarasota County Neighborhood Services, provided a progress report of the parking and restroom facility and the retention pond. She stated that there will be a Board of County Commissioners meeting on February 21, 2006 regarding the Residential/Commercial Transition Overlay District (RCTOD) and CRA Advisory Board use recommendations for the two waterfront properties that have been purchased with CRA funds.
- Ms. Shannon Staub, Sarasota County Commissioner, stated that 2006 is the year that everyone will see things starting to happen in Englewood. She has requested that the Board of County Commissioners hold a joint meeting in the near future with the CRA advisory board to discuss the CRA plan and finances.

Open to the Public

- Mr. Taylor Meals discussed architectural guidelines and whether they should be mandatory, citing specific examples on Dearborn Street. Ms. Joyce Kolmar and Mr. Gene McCall commented. Board members John Fellin, Lise Yust, Chairwoman Diez and Commissioner Staub responded.
- Mr. Tommy Kester thanked Mr. Lewis and Ms. Grogg for attending the meeting. He thanked the Advisory Board and John Radkins for their assistance with the art chair auction project on Dearborn Street. Mr. Kester also commented on architectural guidelines.

Guest Speakers (continued)

- Mr. Robert Gray, CEO of Strategic Planning Group, Inc., provided a background of his company and explained the Englewood project. He explained the work that he has completed so far and proactive versus reactive marketing.

Mr. Gray requested direction from the advisory Board regarding the focus of marketing strategy in the Dearborn Street area. John Fellin responded. Mr. Gray provided a preview of the topics he would be discussing at the Retail Marketing Analysis Workshop later in the evening.

Rob Lewis stated that Mr. Gray is working with a blank palette at this point and encouraged everyone to provide him with timely feedback.

Mr. Gray responded to several comments and questions from the Board and the audience. He discussed the surrounding areas and how they will impact the Englewood study.

- Mr. Tom Minnich, President of the Southwest County Alliance of Homeowner's Associations and Dr. Bill Coy, Chairman of the West Charlotte County Civic Association discussed the initial formation and mission of the Lemon Bay League. They explained that the current purpose of the League is to promote the use of the Lemon Bay Watershed as a general geographic region for coordinated planning efforts relative to natural, social and economic systems.

Dr. Coy stated that he would hope that the Englewood CRA Advisory Board would join various other governmental entities and become a partner with the League.

Board Discussion

- **Public Distribution of monthly newsletter and/or Advisory Board meeting minutes**
Chairwoman Diez requested ideas from the Board members regarding the distribution of meeting minutes or a CRA newsletter to the public. Rob Lewis offered suggestions for a monthly newsletter and report located on the County's website. David Senkpiel discussed the possibility of reporting CRA news on the radio station WENG.
- **Bicycle Racks**
John Radkins provided an update to the design phase of the Dearborn Street bicycle racks. Tommy Kester added comments.

Staff Report

Elaine Wickwire, Englewood CRA Administrative Assistant II, expressed her pleasure at being given then opportunity to help Chris Davis in the CRA office.

Advisory Board Comments

- David Senkpiel inquired if Sarasota County is committed to the actual implementation of Robert Gray's retail marketing study.

Commissioner Staub responded that the County is definitely committed to this project. She stated that eventually major projects will probably be paid for with bond issues. Mr. Gray also commented.

- John Fellin stated that he is real excited about the upcoming year.
- Chairwoman Diez echoed Mr. Fellin's statement.

Agenda Topics for Next Meeting

February 9, 2006 - Working together with the Lemon Bay League

Adjournment

Hearing no further discussion, Chairwoman Diez adjourned the meeting at 3:35 p.m.