

**ENGLEWOOD COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AREA
ADVISORY BOARD (CRA)
Minutes of May 10, 2007 Meeting, Amended**

A regular meeting of the Englewood Community Redevelopment Area Advisory Board was held on Thursday, May 10, 2007, at 1:00 p.m., at Lemon Bay Park, 570 Bay Park Blvd., Englewood, FL.

Members Present

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

Staff Present

Debbie Marks, Interim CRA Coordinator
Jane Grogg, Mgr., Neighborhood Services
Anne McClung, Planning Director
Bill Wisniewski, Planner, Parks & Rec.
Elaine Wickwire, Admin. Assistant II, CRA

Members Absent

Mary Ellen Diez

Call to Order

Chairman John Radkins called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. There was a quorum present.

Approval of Minutes

Following corrections made by Todd Tracy, Norman Caldwell **moved** to approve the minutes of the April 12, 2007 meeting, as amended, seconded by John Mead and carried unanimously.

CRA Coordinator Transition

Jane Grogg, Manager, Sarasota County Neighborhood Services, provided professional background information for Debbie Marks, who has been named the Interim CRA Coordinator after Christine Davis' departure.

Anne McClung, Sarasota County Planning Director, added additional comments regarding Debbie's enthusiasm. Ms. McClung responded to a question from Chairman Radkins regarding the status of the CRA Coordinator position, stating that the position has been advertised internally. However, the County is currently holding on filling positions pending the outcome of the State's upcoming property tax legislation. She added the Florida Redevelopment Association is lobbying aggressively to ensure that CRA's across the State are not hit hard by the legislation.

Open to the Public

No public comments or questions.

Discussion of Sections of the Draft CRA Plan Update

Mr. Ted Brovitz, Stantec Consulting Services, recapped the draft plan sections that the advisory board has received so far and stated that he is looking for specific feedback on the sections.

The following pages of the draft sections were discussed:

Request for clarification of Section 4.4, page 4-19, regarding the “center line” separating the two drainage basins in the downtown area. Mr. Brovitz stated that it is his understanding that the center line is closer to Elsie Quirk Library than to McCall Road.

Mr. Brovitz stated that he had sent Section 4.5, Project CID-10, to the architect of the Lemon Bay Playhouse and Section 4.5, Project CID-3 to a neighborhood representative of Perry Street/Southwind Drive for their review. Their feedback will be included in the next draft of the projects. He suggested that the concept drawing be taken out of the document until the County is at the point of actually designing the park.

Request for clarification of Section 4.4, page 4-26, regarding the CRA’s alleged purchase of a piece of property from the Nazarene Church on Green Street to be used for shared parking. Mr. Brovitz stated that he would investigate and provide the board with an answer.

The name of “Old Dearborn Road” in Section 4.4, page 4-30, under the heading of Proposed Enhancements should be changes to “Old Englewood Road.”

Request for clarification of Section 4.4, page 4-31, regarding Shared and Remote Parking. Mr. Brovitz explained that the zoning code would need to be flexible enough to encourage developers to come up with different, more efficient ideas regarding parking arrangements.

Request for clarification of Section 4.4, page 4-32, regarding Projected Costs of Parking Improvements (“Approximately \$100,000 for additional future enhancements such as landscaping, lighting and restroom facilities.”) Mr. Brovitz explained that in the future, there might be a need for an additional public restroom facility in the downtown area where these costs might apply.

Chairman Radkins, referring to Section 4.4, page 4-39, reminded the advisory board that height will be an issue regarding the design and installation of Englewood gateway arches.

Discussion ensued regarding the possible liability problems that could occur with the creation of bike lanes on Dearborn Street. Mr. Brovitz responded that he will talk to the County about it.

Request to change the language contained in Section 4.4, page 4-45, regarding the assignment of bicycle racks to members of the local art community for their creative decorating, painting and maintenance, removing the language that states that style and color guidelines should be followed.

Discussion ensued regarding the CRA’s funding involvement in the expansion and enhancement of public transit in the community, including the installation of bus shelters, the establishment of a park and ride system and a ferry/water taxi.

Chairman Radkins, referring to Section 4.4, page 4-47, Project PI-8: Improve Infrastructure at the Morris Industrial Park and MEC District, asked Taylor Meals, a member of the Englewood Water District board, if there are any plans to expand water and sewer to the industrial park.

Mr. Meals explained that the lines are about three quarters of a mile away. However, the private owner of the park would have a lot of issues to solve in order to get water and sewer to the park.

Harry Colburn commented on Section 4.4, page 4-29, Other Characteristics, referring to drainage swales. He requested that language be added under Proposed Enhancements to increase the capacity of the drainage swales. Mr. Brovitz stated that he would talk with WilsonMiller, who is currently designing the Englewood stormwater enhancements.

Chairman Radkins inquired if certain activities such as fishing and kayaking are allowed at the Cherokee Street waterfront property at this time. Debbie Marks responded that she will find out the answer to the question and report back to the advisory board.

Todd Tracy discussed his ideas of having short term leases with concessionaires on the waterfront properties until these properties are developed.

Regarding Section 4.5, page 4-58, Project CID-3: Create a Public Waterfront Park on County Property at W. Perry Street and Southwind Drive, Chairman Radkins read the changes that have been made to the draft document for the benefit of the audience members who reside in the immediate neighborhood. He emphasized that their voices have been heard.

Request for clarification of Section 4.5, page 4-68, Make Improvements to the Englewood Recreation Center, second and third bullets that refer to the SarCar Radio Controlled Race Track. Discussion also ensued regarding the suggestion to relocate the police substation to a Dearborn Street storefront.

John Davison inquired if the advisory board can recommend hiring a consultant to begin the waterfront property design prior to the draft update of the plan being presented to the Board of County Commissioners. Chairman Radkins responded that the answer to the question will need to wait until after the budget discussion. Ted Brovitz stated that a few of the projects listed have already been started.

Norman Caldwell commented that the Architectural Design Guidelines need to be made mandatory within the entire CRA.

Harry Colburn, referring to Section 4.5, page 4-52, inquired about the installation of a beacon at the west end of Dearborn Street. Ted Brovitz responded that it could be something as simple as a light at the top of the building at 10 Harbor Lane. Mr. Don Platt, a long-time Englewood resident said he could donate an antique marine light for that purpose. Chairman Radkins accepted the offer and thanked Mr. Platt for his generosity.

Todd Tracy commented on Project CID-10, page 4-62 regarding the Performing Arts Center, Project CID-5, page 4-62 regarding the Development of a Veteran's Memorial Park and Project CID-7, page 4-66 regarding the upgrade of Kiwanis Park. Bill Wisniewski, Planner from Parks and Recreation, provided an update to the steps they have been taking to get Certificates of Occupancy for the decagon buildings at Kiwanis Park.

