

MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING
To Discuss Land Use and 2010 Work Plan
CHARLOTTE HARBOR
COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Thursday, February 4, 2010 – 3:00 p.m.
County Administration Building – Room 119
18500 Murdock Circle, Port Charlotte, FL 33948

Members Present

James Herston, *Chairman*
Michael Haymans, *Vice Chairman*
Grace Amodeo, *Secretary*
Nathaniel Cooley
Evelyn Loeffler
Charlotte Ventola

Staff Present

Debrah Forester, Redevelopment Manager
Seann Smith, Planner II
Kathy M. Knee, Recorder

Guests

Cassandra Wooden
Candace Wehbe

Members Absent

David Schmidt

I. Call to Order

Chairman Jim Herston called the February 4, 2010 Special Meeting of the Charlotte Harbor Community Redevelopment Agency Advisory Committee to order at 3:10 p.m. in Room 119 of the Charlotte County Administration Complex.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Herston led the members and the audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Roll Call/Determination of Quorum

Roll call was taken; Secretary Grace Amodeo confirmed a quorum was present.

IV. Draft Work Plan 2010

Review of 2009 Work Plan - Debrah Forester noted that the purpose of this meeting was to briefly review the programs implemented over the last 5 years and discuss both the 2010 and 2011 Work Plans and Budgets. The Charlotte Harbor CRA budget figures have typically been for the fiscal period one year behind that of Charlotte County. This year's goal is to develop a work plan that will cover the remaining 2010 and move forward in budgeting for Fiscal Year 2011, which runs from October 1, 2010 – September 30, 2011. Ms. Forester suggested starting this process by looking at the Committee's key projects, where funds have been allocated, look at the long term goals and determine if the existing infrastructure projects remain as the primary focus. Ms. Forester noted that per the Budget Office, this year's property values are not expected to increase but in fact will decrease by about 10%.

Discussion on 2010 and 2011 Work Plans – The Works Plan Spreadsheet, which was distributed at the start of the meeting, was reviewed by Debrah Forester line item by line item. The spreadsheet is a draft of how funds have been allocated in the past and proposed for the future. County CIP sheets were included with the packet. Issues that included Committee discussion follow:

Melbourne Bridge – The County would be responsible for the reconstruction and maintenance of the bridge. Committee agreed Melbourne Bridge is a key component and supports the County's efforts to replace the bridge but CRA funds will only be available for enhancements, such as lights and pedestrian way. Ms. Forester indicated that the decrease in the line item will be reflected on next draft.

(Nate Cooley arrived at the meeting at 3:25 p.m.)

Reclaimed Waterline – This project is an approved project in the County's Capital Improvement Project list. Tax Increment Funds are allocated for design. CCU has not yet started the design plan because there may be an opportunity to incorporate this line with the Edgewater Road project. A separate meeting with the City of Punta Gorda and CCU will be set up to discuss options and timing of the project. Based on the outcome of the meeting, funding of this project may be pushed out into future years.

The monument Sign Grant program is due to expire this month. Options: cancel program (\$2,000 remaining) or increase funds and extend it. The program has not been used in a long time but there is currently a daycare facility interested.

Business Improvement Grant – Ms. Forester suggested that since the Resident Rehab is over business improvement should be addressed, such as: how to get the businesses to stay in Charlotte Harbor and incentives for recruitment of new business. It was the consensus of the Committee that since the Resident Rehab program was so successful it should be continued and could include businesses.

Seann Smith suggested the use of funds for rain gardens which could benefit water management and conservation and include community involvement. Michael Haymans thought this might be a good idea. Ms. Forester suggested this idea be shared with individual homeowners as Florida Friendly landscaping.

Park Event Funds – Debrah Forester suggested that the CRA should be able to share in the profits made through park events scheduled by the event coordinator since it pays the Event Coordinator's salary. The Committee did not think this would be appropriate.

Michael Haymans noted that Hands Across the Harbor was very successful and Debrah Forester did a great job. *Mr. Haymans left the meeting at 4:03 p.m.*

Ms. Forester confirmed that the Committee is in agreement to extending the Rehab Program due to its success and this time businesses will be included in the program. Although a list of contractors in Charlotte Harbor could be put together, the Committee should not make recommendations to use a specific contractor. Ms. Forester asked how the Committee would feel about having a rehab application acceptance timeframe for about 90 days. Once the time period expired, all applications would be reviewed and funds would be awarded to the most suitable projects. Additional funding source for Rehab Grant could be from unspent sewer connection fees and sign grant funds, is not used within next few weeks.

Ms. Forester also confirmed that the Committee is agreeable to the funding 50% of her salary and continue funding the Harborwalk as planned.

Nate Cooley asked about the need to fund the reclaimed water project since it would be cheaper to pay the water bill each month instead of investing in the project. Ms. Forester noted that CCU and SWFTMD are eager to use reclaimed water when possible. Ms. Forester would like to have a meeting with CCU and the City of Punta Gorda and come back to the Committee with an update before deciding whether funding should be moved out of this line item or go forward.

Debrah Forester noted that letters will be sent to property owners asking that they take care of their lots. If there is no response, the Committee will need to look at other options.

Ms. Forester noted that a tentative meeting was set for February 18 to further discuss and finalize work plan. The meeting will be held in Room 119 starting at 2:30 p.m. An Agenda will be set for the BCC/Charlotte Harbor CRA joint meeting, which is scheduled for March 23.

- V. **Public Comments** – Cassandra Wooden asked how many unfunded rehab applications have been received and questioned if people interested in participating in the grant should submit an application in hopes of more funding. Debrah Forester noted that there have been applications submitted but funding is not available at this time. The BCC has only approved \$45,000; additional funding requests would need to be brought to the BCC should that be the recommendation of the Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee suggested that the number of rehab applications received prior to the BCC meeting could be reported to the BCC when additional funds are requested.

Candace Wehbe questioned why the ideas of an art walk and hibiscus program were not included in the proposed budget. Nate Cooley suggested that the art walk should be readdressed once sidewalks have been installed at the Sibley/Parmely entry area.

Cassandra Wooden talked about an art project in Wisconsin which featured whimsical pigs; the artists paid for their own pieces.

VI. Next Meeting Date – Debrah Forester advised that the Rules of Procedure state the Advisory Committee meets on the 4th Thursday of each month; therefore to change the meeting day and time to the 1st Monday of each month at 11 a.m., the Rules must be revised and presented to the BCC for approval. Ms. Forester suggested the cancellation of the February 25th meeting and the scheduling of a Special Meeting will on March 1st. At the upcoming February 18th Special Meeting the Committee will formally request a revision to the Rules of Procedure and finalize Work Plan. Kathy Knee was requested to send an e-mail to the Advisory Committee re: availability to meet on the 1st Monday of each month at 11 a.m.

VII. Committee Member Comment - Evelyn Loeffler asked how many meetings a member is allowed to miss. Rules of Procedure were reviewed and it was determined that "...three (3) consecutive regular meetings during a period of six (6) months..."

Debrah Forester invited the Committee and guests to come to Bayshore Park tomorrow for Lunch and Learn which is featuring a lunch a kayak demonstration.

VIII. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting **ADJOURNED** at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy M. Knee, Recorder

/kmk

Approved: _____ 3/1/2010