

MINUTES

SPECIAL MEETING - To Discuss Land Use and 2010 Work Plan CHARLOTTE HARBOR COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, February 18, 2010 – 2:30 p.m.

County Administration Building – Room 119, 18500 Murdock Circle, Port Charlotte, FL 33948

(These minutes are not official until they have been approved by the Charlotte Harbor CRA Advisory Committee.)

Members Present

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

Staff Present

Commissioner Dick Loftus
Debrah Forester, Redevelopment Manager
Seann Smith, Planner II
Simone N. Petche, Recorder

Members Absent

Grace Amodeo, *Secretary (Excused)*

Guests

Candace Wehbe
George Attard

I. Call to Order

Chairman Jim Herston called the February 18, 2010 Special Meeting of the Charlotte Harbor Community Redevelopment Agency Advisory Committee to order at 2:33pm 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; Michael Haymans confirmed a quorum was present.

IV. Public Comments on Agenda Items

Candace Wehbe suggested on the proposed budget, under business renovations, having an increased residential program of \$5000.

V. Approval of Minutes (Added to Agenda)

A motion was presented by Charlotte Ventola and seconded by Mike Haymans to approve the Minutes of the January 28, 2010 Regular Meeting of the Charlotte Harbor Community Redevelopment Agency Advisory Committee as written. Motion carried unanimously.

VI. Review and Approval of Rules and Procedure Change (Attachment A)

A motion was made by Charlotte Ventola and seconded by Mike Haymans to recommend approval of the proposed change in the Rules and Procedure as listed in Attachment A to change the Charlotte Harbor Redevelopment Agency Advisory Committee regular meetings to the first Monday of each month at 11am under Article 6-Meetings. Motion carried unanimously.

VII. Draft Work Plan 2010 (Attachment B)

Review and Revision of 2010 and 2011 Work Plan

The focus of the committee discussion included budgeting for additional street lighting and sidewalk connections on Parmely St. and whether to shift funding for a Parmely analysis to a Central St. analysis. During this time, Seann Smith displayed a street view map of Parmely and Sibley Bay streets, showing the difficulty cars may have driving on those roads due to how narrow they are. Mr. Haymans suggested that energy should be focused on closing off access from Bayshore to US 41 and that Sibley Bay become the entrance for cars traveling from north US 41. Ms. Forester stated she was open to having discussions with FDOT. A motion was presented by Mr. Haymans to ask the Board to set aside \$115,000 to create a new project that could lead to construction –doing an analysis on Central in place of Parmely and closing off Bayshore access to US 41. It was seconded by Nate Cooley and passed unanimously.

Mr. Cooley proposed adding more funds into the Housing Rehabilitation Program and possibly making it into a Business/Housing Rehabilitation program. After further discussion among the board, the decision was made to budget \$35,000 from the Business Improvement Grant, making it into a Housing/Business

Improvement Grant. Among the remaining funds, \$3,500 would fall under Marketing/Public Relations and \$7,000 would be put into Programming. Ms. Forester will update the work plan for the Board's review.

VIII. Review of proposed agenda for joint meeting (Attachment C)

Ms. Forester identified the following action items on the proposed agenda for the March 23 joint meeting: approval of the 2010 and 2011 work plan, further discussion was requested on the pilot exotic plant project and approval to increase funding for the housing business grant. Other action items included the proposed change to the Rules and Procedures to change monthly meeting date and time, and the Riverwalk incentives. Ms. Forester noted there was an interest in increasing the density in the Riverwalk area and there may be an opportunity with the use of density from county lands purchased through Conservation Charlotte to set aside some of those units for use in Charlotte Harbor. Commissioner Loftus stated that he would like to see these issues advanced at the joint meeting. There was discussion among the board, which concluded that this item will be changed to a discussion on regulatory land use changes and density issues. Although there are no solutions at this time, the board is looking to bring them back as it evaluates the target area from last year. Ms. Forester also mentioned that she will meet with Parks and Recreation as well as with Facilities to discuss the Hickory House and how it may be included in the Charlotte Harbor boundary to help facilitate the use of that property as previously discussed at the January 28 meeting.

IX. Public Comments

George Attard stated that he supports the clearing of the lots by the Bayshore Live Oak Park because he believes there is a growing problem with the homeless receiving food in the park every Friday and Saturday. There was discussion among the board in response to Mr. Attard's statement. Candace Wehbe requested that the letter to the property owners include a statement on removal of trash and the importance of maintaining the lots. Ms. Wehbe also suggested there should be a way to distinguish the Charlotte Harbor area from Port Charlotte, possibly by adding flowering trees, as people drive along US 41 to attract them to stop.

X. Staff Comments

Ms. Forester noted that the vacancy on the committee will be advertised at the next board meeting under the volunteer list for the Charlotte Harbor CRA position vacated by David Schmidt. She thanked Mr. Cooley for his work on the Valentine Day Vow Renewal, which was successful with over 60 people attending.

XI. Committee Member Comments

Ms. Loeffler said she started on an installation art piece which will be completed within the following week and put in place on Ganyard St. Mr. Cooley said he has mixed emotions about the homeless in the park. He noted that there are places the homeless may go besides the park and that panhandling needs to be addressed in Charlotte County. He also suggested asking Risk Management if volunteers could be organized to clear the overgrown lots and looking at the Disney volunteer program to incentivize people. Mr. Haymans said he supports the idea of providing assistance to the homeless in Bayshore Park. He also thanked the board for changing the time for the Charlotte Harbor CRA meetings and announced that there will be a 3-day music festival at the Charlotte County Fair from Feb 26-28th.

XI. Meeting Schedule

There will be a special meeting of the Charlotte Harbor Redevelopment Agency Advisory Committee on **Monday, March 1, 2010 at 11am in Room 119 of the Charlotte County Administration Center.**

XII. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting **ADJOURNED** at 4:37pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Simone N. Petché, Recorder

Approved: _____

/snp