

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
CHARLOTTE HARBOR
COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Monday, April 11, 2011 – 10:30 a.m.
County Administration Building – Room 119
18500 Murdock Circle, Port Charlotte, FL 33948

Members Present

James Herston, Chairman
Grace Amodeo, *Secretary*
Eddie Hale
Charlotte Ventola
Garland Wilson

Staff Present

Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch
Debrah Forester, Redevelopment Manager
Roxann Read, Planner II
Kathy M. Knee, Recorder

Members Absent

Nathaniel Cooley
Michael Haymans, *Vice Chairman*

Guests

I. Call to Order

Chairman Herston called the April 11, 2011 meeting of the Charlotte Harbor Community Redevelopment Agency Advisory Committee to order at 10:32 a.m. in Room 119 of the Charlotte County Administration Building.

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. Additions/Deletions to Agenda - None.

V. Approval of Minutes

A motion was presented by Charlotte Ventola and seconded by Grace Amodeo to approve the Minutes of the March 7, 2011 Regular Meeting of the Charlotte Harbor Community Redevelopment Agency Advisory Committee as written. Motion carried unanimously.

VI. Commissioner Comments - Grace Amodeo noted the Commissioner is still at the PreAgenda Meeting.

VII. Public Comments – Cliff Kewley mentioned he attended the Beaches and Shores meeting recently and was pleased to hear Charlotte Harbor CRA submitted a grant proposal with them and he hopes for a positive outcome.

VIII. Development Review Report

Chairman Herston – Dr. Hershkowitz’s medical building, which was previously approved, may be starting up soon.

IX. Old Business

Bench Project and Elizabeth Spicer’s Report – In Ms. Spicer’s absence, Debrah Forester noted the attachments for this item were distributed to the Committee Members with the meeting packet. Ms. Forester asked the Committee members for input regarding the call for artists and for a name for the competition which should have some pizzazz. Ms. Forester noted a legal request has been submitted requesting language that will ensure

the bench work is the property of the County. 10 artists will be selected and a bench plaque will be affixed to the bench with the artists' information. Theme suggestions will include trees and birds. Benches will be arranged in clusters; Elizabeth Spicer and David Milligan will coordinate this effort. Ms. Forester reported the Community Dog Show was a big success and Ms. Spicer is working on a Mother's Day event. The revenue on the events is more than the expenses; this is a good thing.

Wayfinding Signage – Debrah Forester stated she received a preliminary quote of \$1,500 per sign from Signs R Us to identify the location of Bayshore Park and the Historical Center. However, the more the company looked at the right-of-way specification requirements they must meet, they realized the quote would need to be increased to \$2,800 per sign. This would be over the \$5,000 discretionary purchase limit and an official bid request would be needed. Ms. Forester noted there are brown and white location signs currently in use, and asked if the new wayfinding item should be tabled until more activity occurs in the area. The consensus of the Committee was to table this item until a later date.

Community Redevelopment Plan Revisions – Debrah Forester reported she received comments from Mr. Wilson and asked if anyone else had revision suggestions; there were no additional revisions. Ms. Forester will finalize the Plan and set up a workshop with the BCC for adoption.

Whidden Park – Ms. Forester reviewed the information which was distributed to the Committee Members with the meeting packet and noted it would cost \$500,000 to bring streets up to code and improve the drainage in the Whidden Park area. The County will not take this road over until it is up to County standards. Discussion followed and included the recommendation, with Committee consensus, to hold a meeting for property owners in this area to see if they are interested in this project. The focus should be on the need for infrastructure to encourage business growth.

Marine Advisory Committee – Debrah Forester mentioned she will be attending the next Marine Advisory Committee meeting to hear the final decision on the CRA's grant application. The Marine Advisory Committee asked for an updated schedule of the Harborwalk project with regard to permitting and was advised the final comments were sent to FDOT who has 30 days for additional changes, if necessary.

Commissioner Deutsch joined the meeting and was asked if he had anything he would like to say or report; he did not have anything at this time.

Annual Report – A copy of the 2010 Charlotte Harbor CRA Annual Report was distributed to each Committee Member at the start of the meeting. Ms. Forester stated the report is required to be filed with the State and with the BCC. Grace Amodeo asked that this report be shared with the Marine Advisory Committee.

X. New Business

Melbourne Street Bridge Naming – Debrah Forester mentioned that Grace Amodeo talked with Dick Loftus who reluctantly accepted the suggestion to have the Melbourne Street Bridge renamed in his honor. Discussion followed regarding naming the bridge for a person who was still alive. Commissioner Deutsch said it is appropriate and listed a few parks that are dedicated to living persons. **A motion was presented by Grace Amodeo, seconded by Jim Herston and unanimously approved to recommend renaming the Melbourne Street Bridge to the Dick Loftus Bridge.** Ms. Forester will

bring this item before the BCC for approval and will meet with Kelly Slaughter to get timing down and the plaques made.

2012 Work Plan Priority List – Debrah Forester suggested the following projects:

- Gateway
- Harborwalk Project Phase 2;
- Entry focus, US 41 from Parmeley to the bridge.
- Traffic calming and design in the Seneca/Sibley Bay area.

Ms. Forester noted funds are tight and asked the Committee which projects they thought would best benefit the CRA. After a brief discussion, Chairman Herston asked Ms. Forester to create a list with long range categories so the members could then determine priority. Items could include: Phase 1 and 2 of Harborwalk; Parmeley thoroughfare; lighting and sidewalk; wayfinding project; landscaping of US 41; continuation of the vacant lot maintenance program; and School House Square.

Comprehensive Plan Language Suggestion/Cottage Industry – An attachment for this item was distributed to the Committee Members with the meeting packet. This revision would be for the area listed as Coastal Residential; the area from the park on Bayshore to the NBR section on Seneca. The addition of cottage industries would allow selling from single family homes by appointment only. Currently you cannot sell from a single family home. Discussion followed. It was the consensus of the Committee not to accept the cottage industry suggestion because it seemed to be a backdoor way of doing NBR. It would create client traffic, employee traffic, and businesses that may open early and create noise or odors

XI. Correspondence/Communications

The following correspondence/communications were distributed with the meeting packet: Minutes from the March 2 Punta Gorda CRA meeting and the Mother’s Day Bayshore Park Event flyer.

XII. Public Comments

Cliff Kewley mentioned he supported the beach launch and funding for disabled sailors at the Marine Advisory meeting. Mr. Kewley noted the Charlotte Harbor CRA Advisory Committee has not been successful in getting community involvement; Punta Gorda and the Medical Arts CRA are getting lots of press. Mr. Kewley thought there needs to be an outreach into the community to gain excitement. He suggested evening meetings with a specific topic to attract an audience. Eddie Hale suggested meetings would be more convenient if they were held at a location within the CRA. Ms. Forester will look at doing a meeting closer to Charlotte Harbor on a quarterly basis. It was also suggested that a “Get to Know the CRA Meet & Greet” be arranged where the Annual Report could be unveiled and community can offer comments on the goals of the Committee.

Mr. Kewley recommended a Riverwalk partnership be formed, using a high quality real estate marketing person to put together a plan. Chairman Herston noted this was done by Maxim Realty. A study was presented to Riverwalk property owners but the owners thought the expected selling price was too low.

XIII. Staff Comments – None.

XIV. Attorney Comments - None.

XV. Member Comments - None

XVI. Next Meeting Date

The next regular meeting of the Charlotte Harbor Community Redevelopment Agency Advisory Committee will be held on **Monday, May 9, 2011 at 10:30 a.m. in Room 119 of the Charlotte County Administration Center.**

XVII. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting **ADJOURNED** at 12:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy M Knee

Kathy M. Knee, Recorder

/kmk

Approved: _____ 5/9/11