

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
CHARLOTTE HARBOR
COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Monday, March 5, 2012 – 11:00 a.m.
County Administration Building – Room 119
18500 Murdock Circle, Port Charlotte, FL 33948

Members Present

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

Staff Present

Debrah Forester, Redevelopment Manager
Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch
Roxann Read, Planner II, Community Development
Elizabeth Spicer, Event Planner
Kathy M. Knee, Recorder

Members Absent

Nathaniel Cooley
Eddie Hale
Michael Haymans

Guests

Bobby Lucchetti
Dianna Lucchetti
Deputy William Miller
Cliff Kewley

I. Call to Order

Chairman Herston called the March 5, 2012 meeting of the Charlotte Harbor Community Redevelopment Agency Advisory Committee to order at 11:01 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

Debrah Forester noted she would need to step away from the meeting for about 15 minutes around Noon for a meeting with a Commissioner.

V. Approval of Minutes

A Motion was presented by Charlotte Ventola, seconded by Grace Amodeo and unanimously approved to accept the Minutes of the February 6, 2012 Regular Meeting of the Charlotte Harbor Community Redevelopment Agency Advisory Committee as written.

INTRODUCTION: Jim Herston introduced Bobby Lucchetti an area Boy Scout who is working on his Merit Badge for Citizenship in the Community.

VI. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Deutsch commended Bobby on his work in the Boy Scouts. The Commissioner congratulated the Advisory Committee for their efforts and energy in getting the drinking ordinance in the CRA parks passed and he mentioned that the RFP for the Sibley Bay property went out last week.

VII. Public Comments – None.

VIII. Development Review Report

Debrah Forester noted that information was included with the meeting packet for Advanced Auto. This project will be reviewed through the Community Development Department. The changes the Advisory Committee requested have been noted. There was discussion on the requested changes. Dan Fitzgerald, Construction Manager for Advanced Auto Parts spoke about the revisions. The loading

dock is on the rear of the building, false windows were added along with additional landscaping and gingerbread. Mr. Fitzgerald mentioned that the closing is scheduled for late March and construction would start soon thereafter. Jim Herston advised that in his option this project meets the Architectural Standards. **A Motion was presented by Grace Amodeo, seconded by Garland Wilson and unanimously approved to accept the revised plans of Advanced Auto as presented.**

IX. Old Business

Elizabeth Spicer's Report – Elizabeth Spicer talked about the upcoming events in Bayshore Park. Grace Amodeo mentioned the need to have David Milligan attend a meeting to discuss the costs and funding of a children's playground. Ms. Forester noted that John Jackson is in charge of Parks and she will touch base with both Mr. Jackson and Mr. Milligan. Ms. Spicer added that Mr. Jackson has recently purchased a new screen and this will enable her to start showing films at Bayshore Park again.

Review of Architectural Standards – Debrah Forester noted that this item was held over from the Special Meeting at the request of Garland Wilson. Mr. Wilson stated that the ordinance is confusing and suggested Charlotte County have something similar to the way this type of ordinance was done in Key West, which was simply to direct the reader of the Ordinance to see the Design Standards instead of turning the standards language into legalese. Roxann Read noted that when the County is ready to redo the redevelopment code it is the intent to be more user friendly and easier to understand. Charlotte Ventola noted that she does not think the Committee should be telling property owners what to do with their houses. Jim Herston noted that in comparing what has been built since the Standards were created to the properties that were improved prior to Standards, there is a nice look evolving. Mr. Herston does not think the Standards ask for too much. Mr. Herston also noted that he gets called into Permitting for each Charlotte Harbor permit and he does not think there is any confusion. It was suggested to Mr. Wilson that he put together something for the Committee's review. Mr. Herston noted that the Committee was going to review the Standards and include revisions to the shed and lighting language. It was the consensus that the point system should remain.

Melbourne Bridge Dedication – Debrah Forester advised that the bridge dedication is confirmed for May 1 at 9 a.m. and it will be staged at the vacant lot on Melbourne and US 41. Ms. Forester asked Mr. Herston to be the emcee. Wright Construction will be sponsoring the refreshments and chairs for the dedication. The bridge should be finished within the next 30 days.

Harborwalk Update – Debrah Forester noted this project is proceeding. The land lease has been sent to Tallahassee. The next step will be to ask the BCC to advance/reimburse funds – the BCC will lend the Advisory Board the money with repayment by FDOT in 2014/15. If the BCC approves fund advancement, construction can begin in the last quarter of 2012. Ms. Forester will prepare a draft letter to the FDOT which will be presented to the BCC for approval at the March 27 meeting.

Whidden Park Follow Up – Debrah Forester mentioned that the Committee met with property owners last year and there were a few sub-committee meetings. Ms. Forester asked if there is an interest in touching base again to determine if the property owners are still interested in the street improvements. There is a new business at Whidden Park called Evolution Trailer Technology. Jim Herston reported there are a few people who are taking the lead but they have been on vacation. There is still an interest and quotes have been received from surveyors and construction contractors in an effort to determine the cost of improvements compared to estimate furnished by Public Works. The next step would be to obtain financing data and then submit a report to the BCC. Discussion followed regarding funding this project and an MSBU.

Edgewater Site – Debrah Forester noted an aerial map was included in the meeting packet of this site. This is County owned property in the CRA. There has been discussion to use this property for the recruitment of a commercial entity. If owned by the CRA, the RFP process for transferring the property might be more flexible, making it easier to use for business recruitment purposes. The CRA could make

it shovel ready and then market it through the EDO. This would, of course, need BCC approval. Jim Herston will send a site plan of the property to Ms. Forester.

X. **New Business** – None.

XI. **Correspondence/Communications**

- The Minutes from Punta Gorda CRA meeting of February 1, 2012 were included in the meeting packet.
- Seawall Memo Update – Debrah Forester noted that she received an e-mail today stating that the repairs will start at end of this week.

Debrah Forester advised that she needs to leave for her meeting in a few minutes and asked to add her Staff Comments. The Sibley Bay RFP has been put on the Purchasing website. All inquiries must go through the Purchasing Department.

XII. **Public Comments**

Deputy William Miller, Charlotte County Sheriff's Office, reported the community policing program has been reinstated and he will pick up where he left off last July/August.

Cliff Kewley mentioned the old Florida overgrowth on lots on Bayshore Road despite CRAs efforts to control. There is also a growing homeless camp on Bayshore. Solutions are needed for both of these issues. Mr. Kewley implored the Committee to have design standards to make Charlotte Harbor a distinct community.

XIII. **Staff Comments** – noted above.

XIV. **Attorney Comments** - Attorney Rooney was not at today's meeting.

XV. **Member Comments**

- Chairman Herston asked Bobby Lucchetti to stay for a picture with the Committee after the meeting.
- Charlotte Ventola thought there should be fewer standards and they should be easier to understand.
- Grace Amodio noted that the Minutes indicated April 9 should be saved for a walking tour and asked if additional information was available. Debrah Forester will be asked if additional details are available.

XVI. **Next Meeting Date**

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Charlotte Harbor Community Redevelopment Agency Advisory Committee will be held on **Monday, April 2, 2012 at 11 a.m. in Room 119 of the Charlotte County Administration Center.**

XVII. **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting **ADJOURNED** at 12:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Grace E. Amodio, Secretary

Approved: Grace E. Amodio
4-2-12

/kmk