MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
CHARLOTTE HARBOR
COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Monday, September 10, 2012 – 10:30 a.m.
County Administration Building – Room 119
18500 Murdock Circle, Port Charlotte, FL 33948

Members Present
Garland Wilson, *Vice Chairman*
Grace Amodeo, *Secretary*
Nathaniel Cooley
Michael Haymans

Members Absent
James Herston, *Chairman*
Charlotte Ventola

Staff Present
Debrah Forester, Redevelopment Manager
Roxann Read, Planner II

Guests
Jon Swen

I. Call to Order
Vice Chairman Garland Wilson called the September 10, 2012 meeting of the Charlotte Harbor Community Redevelopment Agency Advisory Committee to order at 10:35 a.m. in Room 119 of the Charlotte County Administration Building.

II. Pledge of Allegiance
Vice Chairman Wilson 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 advised that Elizabeth Spicer will not be here today because of Jury Duty. Agenda Item IX.b will be deleted but Ms. Spicer's Bayshore Park Event Report was distributed to Committee Members. Ms. Forester also suggested that Item IX.d – Architectural Standards be tabled until October since Mr. Herston was unable to attend today's meeting. Ms. Forester noted that Mr. Henry was not yet here and Item IX.a may need to be delayed.

V. Approval of Minutes
Grace Amodeo stated she had some questions about Crew Charlotte Harbor. It was suggested that she might bring this up under Member Comments later in the meeting. ***A Motion was presented by Nate Cooley, seconded by Michael Haymans and unanimously approved to accept the Minutes of the July 9, 2012 meeting as written.***

VI. Commissioner Comments
Commissioner Deutsch advised that he just came out of a BCC PreAgenda meeting and the Bayshore Park rest room facilities were discussed; the item will be voted on at the BCC meeting tomorrow 9/11. Commissioner Deutsch noted the restrooms are expensive but are needed to meet ADA requirements; the new playground will be within 500 feet of restrooms.

VII. Public Comments
Evelyn Loeffler stated she has noticed large for sale signs along the waterfront and noted there seems to be a lot of people leaving Charlotte Harbor.

VIII. Development Review Report – No report. Jim Herston did not attend today's meeting.

IX. Old Business

Bayshore Park – Tom Henry, did not attend today's meeting. Debrah Forester reported she attended a meeting with Tom Henry, Garland Wilson and Elizabeth Spicer; discussion included: the shoreline restoration after damage from Tropical Storm Debbie and the playground, which is moving forward. As mentioned by Commission Deutsch, the BCC will be asked to approve the construction of the restroom facilities at tomorrow's Board meeting. Mr. Wilson reported on a meeting he had with Cliff Kewley and they were able to figure out a way to widen the existing canoe/kayak ramp using available repair funds.

Bayshore Park Special Events Report - Elizabeth Spicer was unable to attend today's meeting; her report was distributed to Committee Members.

Melbourne Bridge Landscape Plans – A copy of the plans were distributed at the start of the meeting to Committee members. John Swen, Charlotte Engineering, stated the plans were recently revised to meet Charlotte Harbor Water Association requirements. Mr. Swen reviewed the list of plants that would be used for landscaping. Discussion followed regarding the use of an irrigation system vs. a watering truck.

Architectural Standards – This item was tabled until the October 1 meeting.

Logo Date/Historical District Ordinance Change – In light of new information, Debrah Forester advised that the Charlotte Harbor area was established in 1872, not 1862. The Charlotte Harbor CRA logo has been updated to reflect this date. A decal has been received to correct the banner that is located at the Dick Loftus Bridge. The Ordinance which notes 1862 as the date of establishment will be revised by the Attorney's Office.

Harbor Walk Project Update – Debrah Forester reported a letter was received from FDOT stating the second request to use advanced funds has been denied because there is not yet enough information on the new transportation legislation; the rules are being worked out. Staff will continue to monitor the status of the rules and another request will be sent. The funding which has been approved for 2014 should be available on July 1, 2014. The Marine Advisory Committee is concerned their timeframe will not be met. The Marine Advisory funds will be used first if the project needs to wait until 2014. Ms. Forester has prepared a memo explaining the situation to the Marine Advisory Committee. The issue is FDOT does not want any money spent now because they may not be able to repay it. The BCC has already approved funding; they are not the issue. Ms. Forester also reported that the attorney's offices for the State and County are working together on the last permit which is airspace agreement which allows the use of the FDOT property. It should be ready to go to the BCC by October. As part of the lease agreement, either party can terminate the lease without cause upon 90 days of written notice. One example that may cause FDOT to request the property back would be if the bridge would be widened and the land would be need to accommodate the new bridge span. There is no lease payment since the use of the property is for public purpose. The lease is for 25 years with one renewal for an additional 25 years.

Hands Across the Harbor – Debrah Forester noted the event needs sponsors. A website is being set up.

X. New Business

Walkability Study Report – A copy of Walkability Study Report was distributed to Committee Members. Ms. Forester advised the Committee that the full report, which includes a livability

tool box, will be available on the CRA webpage. This study was funded by a grant for Public Spaces to look at the Parkside and Charlotte Harbor Redevelopment Areas. Ms. Forester's presentation included an overview of the report: observations/recommendations – traffic is moving too quickly on US 41; US 41 is not walker and bike rider friendly; the road should be striped in the area near Parmely for identification and safety; a mini circle was recommended at Parmely and Seneca to reduce the speed of traffic and establish a sense of place; preserve and plant trees; start a tree nursery for the neighborhood; consider using Foster Drive as a pedestrian/vehicular connection to US 41- promote right turns on Foster instead of at Parmely; use Schoolhouse Square to create sense of place, a mixed used development; reduce the number of lanes on Kings Highway; continue to bring people into the park and showcase the area. Parmely has been identified by the Committee as a project area but due to limited funds has not moved forward but before moving forward the Committee will need to get the property owners on Parmely and Forster to buy into the projects.

Nate Cooley noted that the Committee Members have been shown pictures of quaint business areas for some time now but no sites have been identified for its focus. Mr. Cooley thought it was a great disservice to not allow business on Bayshore Road. There is a need to encourage and establish a business environment before the area will grow. Discussion followed.

Garland Wilson suggested that the Committee Members review the Walkability Study and have it added to the Agenda next month for discussion.

US EPA Brownfields Grant Resubmission – Ms. Forester stated the Committee supported a partnership with the Regional Planning Council (RPC) last year when a grant application was submitted for Lee and Charlotte counties for a US 41 corridor regional approach to brownfield redevelopment. The grant application was not awarded at that time so the RPC is going to resubmit it. This could provide funding for Phase 1 and Phase 2 assessments on properties and if contamination was identified there may be an opportunity for additional funding for cleanup. Ms. Forester asked if this is something the Committee would want to participate in. ***A Motion was presented by Nate Cooley, seconded by Michael Haymans and unanimously approved to submit a letter supporting the US 41 Corridor Brownfields Grant being resubmitted by the Regional Planning Council.***

XI. **Correspondence/Communications** – The following information was forwarded with the meeting packet:

- Minutes from Punta Gorda CRA meetings of July 3, July 11 and August 15
- Reclaimed Water Line (Recap of previous Committee discussion)
- Sun News Article – Scavenger Hunt

XII. **Public Comments**

Bill Schmidt agreed that Bayshore Road should allow commercial use because it is the best location in the Charlotte Harbor area. Mr. Schmidt would like to see County support in showing these properties as available for sale. Selling the properties and having it developed would increase the TIF funds.

XIII. **Staff Comments** – Ms. Forester advised that the engineers testing the banners/poles at the Dick Loftus Bridge have completed their studies and the existing banners and poles passed their inspection. Ms. Forester noted the banners are still being offered at a reduced price. Buying and installing the banners at the same time could keep costs down.

XIV. **Attorney Comments** – Derek Rooney was not present at this time.

XV. **Member Comments**

Grace Amodeo asked if Crew Charlotte Harbor will be bringing its suggestions to CRA Advisory Committee or directly to the BCC. Michael Haymans advised that the idea was to form an organization to be a focus group, similar to Team Punta Gorda and Team Port Charlotte. Crew Charlotte Harbor, a community based group, will determine how it will act; they may take both routes. Crew Charlotte Harbor will not be bound by Sunshine. It is an opportunity for people to take responsibility for their community. This was mentioned to the CRA Committee for informational purposes.

Nate Cooley noted his support of Crew Charlotte Harbor. The community does not seem to want to participate in the things the CRA Committee is working on; the Committee does not necessarily accommodate what the community wants and has been opposed to things the Charlotte Harbor business community wants.

XVI. Next Meeting Date

The next regular meeting of the Charlotte Harbor Community Redevelopment Agency Advisory Committee will be held on Monday, October 1, 2012 at 11:00 a.m. in Room 119 of the Charlotte County Administration Center.

XVII. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting ADJOURNED at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Grace E Amodeo

Grace E. Amodeo, Secretary Approved: 10/1/2012