

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
CHARLOTTE HARBOR
COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Thursday, November 20, 2008 – 10:00 a.m. - Corrected
County Administration Building – Room B-106
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

Commissioner Richard Loftus
Derek Rooney, Assistant County Attorney
Debrah Forester, Redevelopment Manager
Seann Smith, Planner II
Barbara Watkins, Recorder

Members Excused

David Schmidt

Guests

Don Drumm, Drumm Engineering Corporation
Thomas George, Thomas George Real Estate
Harriet Clark, Thomas George Real Estate

I. Call to Order

Vice-Chairman Haymans called the November 20, 2008 meeting of the Charlotte Harbor Community Redevelopment Agency Advisory Committee to order at 10:03 a.m. in Room 106, Building B, of the Charlotte County Administration Building.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Vice-Chairman Haymans 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.

Welcome New Committee Member Nathaniel Cooley

At this time, Vice Chairman Haymans introduced and welcomed new committee member, Nathaniel Cooley. Mr. Cooley gave a brief overview of his background and interest in Charlotte Harbor.

IV. Additions/Deletions to Agenda

Vice-Chairman Haymans announced that Thomas George, of Thomas George Real Estate, has requested to make a presentation which will be added under New Business.

V. Approval of Minutes

A motion was presented by Grace Amodeo and seconded by Nathaniel Cooley to approve the minutes of the October 29, 2008 Regular Meeting of the Charlotte Harbor Community Redevelopment Agency Advisory Committee as written. Motion carried unanimously.

VI. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Loftus wanted to remind the group that regarding the dredging of Charlotte Harbor close to Bayshore, this area is in the Charlotte Harbor Aquatic Preserve, and that upon speaking with Dan Quick from Public Works, he was informed that this area is impossible to dredge. Vice-Chairman Haymans commented that if the dredging could be characterized as maintenance dredging to re-establish the existing channel to its original depth, there is some possibility, even in the aquatic preserve, that it could be done. However, it's his understanding that no new dredging can be done in

the aquatic preserve. Commissioner Loftus indicated once again that he did speak with Dan Quick and the mouth cannot be dredged. Discussion ensued.

VII. **Public Comments** - None

VIII. **Development Review Report**

Touch of Class Car Wash

Don Drum. Drum Engineering, appeared before the committee and briefly presented an overview of the proposed plans to upgrade/improve the Touch of Class Car Wash. Compliance with the Charlotte Harbor design standards associated with this plan were discussed. The plans as discussed appear to be consistent with the CRA criteria.

ACTION: A motion was presented by Charlotte Ventola and seconded by Grace Amodeo to accept the proposed changes to the Touch of Class Car Wash as submitted and presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Debrah Forester noted that Charlotte Harbor CRA Advisory Committee will provide a letter stating that the proposed changes were presented to the CRA Advisory Committee and that a motion of acceptance was passed. This letter should be included with the permit application.

IX. **Old Business**

Evelyn Loeffler joined the meeting at this time.

a. **Gateway Project Update**

Kelly Slaughter gave a brief update on the Gateway Project. She commented that the electricity is at the site and the lights on the signs should be working some time next week. Ms. Slaughter stated that the landscape company will then return to put the irrigation and landscaping back as it was. It was suggested that a "public service announcement" be published when the job is completed. Debrah Forester provided the following comments:

- Met with Kimley Horn and Dan Quick to negotiate the contract with Kimley Horn to do the design engineering services for the next phase of the Gateway area. A few of the ideas and scope of services were discussed.
- After a contract is drawn up which is acceptable to the County and it's ready for execution, Debrah stated it will be presented to the Charlotte Harbor CRA Advisory Committee to review. She further explained the approval process for work orders.
- Surveying of the area will be labor intensive and, therefore, costly. Dan Quick recommended this task be completed in the first phase of the project in order to have base data available from the beginning.
- A project kick-off meeting with the community to meet Kimley Horn will be scheduled as part of Phase I to discuss the project, the phasing, and to ensure that everyone is educated on the Riverwalk project.

Kelly Slaughter reviewed the mega sidewalk project and said that the plans are 100 percent completed and will be delivered next week. Construction should begin in April. Vice-Chair Haymans requested that plans be made available to this committee by a "pdf" file for review. Copies of the plans will also be available in the Economic Development Office.

Vice-Chair Haymans suggested posting the sidewalk plans to the Charlotte Harbor website for the citizens to view.

Debrah Forester commented on the banner situation; a meeting was held on Monday with FDOT to discuss with them the concerns the committee presented at last month's meeting. It is anticipated that someone from FDOT will come to the CRA Advisory Committee's December meeting with information on what the situation is. The City of Punta Gorda is very anxious to remove the banners. Alternative solutions to the cost of MOT (Maintenance of Transportation) will also be reviewed by FDOT and County staff.

b. Hands Across the Harbor Event

Debrah Forester provided an update on *Hands Across the Harbor Event* as follows:

- Budget has increased a little bit, however, it is expected there will be more people who will be participating.
- Volunteers will be needed to help out with the event which will be held on January 24, 2009 – 7:30 to 10:30 a.m.
- Zoomers will be handling most of the race management; bike shops are interested as well.
- The lieutenant from the Sheriff's Department has signed off on the traffic management. Bayshore Road will be closed down in both directions from Oakley to US 41 for the event. US 41 will be limited to one lane of traffic. This request for road closure will be presented to the BCC for their approval on December 9.
- Have spoken to the property owners on Bayshore to let them know of the event.
- A Sheriff's Deputy will be hired to control traffic on the corner of Bayshore and US 41 because the Banana Bay Motel is still open and people need to have the ability to come and go from that motel if necessary.
- The Budget is around \$7,000 for the event; it is expected to be a break-even event.
- After the event, they will be snacks for the runners and bikers as well as other individuals available at the park. FDOT will be providing helmets. There will be police on patrol in the park.
- After Thanksgiving, will be looking at asking the Charlotte Harbor businesses to be sponsors of the event. Sponsors' names will be listed on the back of the T-shirts. Further, the businesses will be asked to post 11 x 17 posters advertising the event in their windows.
- Ron Thomas, the head of Zoomers, is taking responsibility for accepting registrations for the participants of the event, as well as keeping the list of volunteers...this is taking place at the Tropical Store at the corner of Marion Avenue and US 41 South.

Vice-Chair Haymans commented that we're looking forward to this being a signature event representing cooperation between the two CRAs.

Debrah Forester stated that the core group which is putting this event together will be meeting again in two weeks.

Chairman Jim Herston joined the meeting at this time.

c. Joint City CRA Meeting (March) Update

Debrah Forester announced that the Punta Gorda CRA notified her they don't feel it is necessary to hold the joint coordination meetings any more with them. They feel that the minutes being distributed between the CRAs are sufficient. Meetings can be arranged should the need arise. Therefore, March's Joint CRA Meeting meeting is cancelled.

X. New Business

Thomas George of Thomas J. George Realty distributed a packet of information relevant to his presentation (copy attached to the original minutes). He briefly reviewed the packet which explained that he has a tract of land in Charlotte Harbor available that Charlotte County could purchase for an extension of the Bayshore Live Oak Park and Riverwalk, a total of 1.8 acres at a cost of \$6.5 million. Discussion ensued; however, it was the consensus that \$6.5 million is too high; the economy cannot support it at this time. It was also discussed that the CRA is not the appropriate buyer, that Mr. George should present the offer to the County Commissioners. Following considerable discussion, action was taken as follows:

ACTION: A motion was presented by Michael Haymans and seconded by Nathaniel Cooley that the Charlotte Harbor CRA Advisory Committee declines to recommend approval to the BCC of the property offer as presented by Thomas George of Thomas J. George Realty.

Discussion ensued regarding whether this property offer should be taken to the Commissioners and that it might be more beneficial to bring it forward with a trade, not money...no change was made to the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

XI. Correspondence/Communications

Debrah Forester spoke about the correspondence/communications provided in the packets for review as follows:

- a. Programs to Improve Charlotte County from Candace Wehbe (copy attached to the original minutes).
- b. Follow-up from CCU: Charlotte Harbor CRA MSBU LPS Expansion Assessment Analysis (copy attached to the original minutes).
- c. Rules of Procedure as approved.

ACTION: A motion was presented by Michael Haymans and seconded by Nathaniel Cooley to recommend approval to the Board of County Commissioners of the Rules of Procedure for the Charlotte Harbor Community Redevelopment Agency Advisory Committee as amended on October 29, 2008. Motion carried unanimously.

XII. Public Comments

Bill Schmitz, owner of Bayshore Marine in Charlotte Harbor, commented that his group attended the meeting today to hear Thomas George's presentation. They agree with the committee's decision and stated they feel this committee does an excellent job.

XIII. Staff Comments

Debrah Forester provided the following comments:

- A copy of the updated version of the Sign Grant Application was distributed which was handed out (copy attached to the original minutes).
- A proposed 2009 Meeting Schedule for the Charlotte Harbor CRA Advisory Committee was distributed (copy attached to the original minutes). Noted in yellow are two dates which had to be changed to the third Thursday due to holidays.
- The award funds received for the Southwest Florida Water Management Grant for FY 2009 are still being utilized and, therefore, since the funds have not been depleted, Debrah thought it best to not apply for the FY 2010 Southwest Florida Water Management Grant. A representative Southwest Florida Water Management will be invited to attend a meeting early next year to give a presentation of the work that's been completed.

- Staff will be bringing forward a proposed work plan for the committee to discuss in December and will begin to schedule the joint meeting with the BCC for the first quarter of 2009.
- Seann Smith commented that the Charlotte Players are looking at relocating to the CRA at 4344 Laura Street. Harry Taylor, representing the Charlotte Players, plans to attend the February Charlotte Harbor CRA Advisory Committee meeting to make a presentation. Seann said it appears to be something the committee will be interested in.

XIV. Attorney Comments - None

XV. Member Comments

- Evelyn Loeffler publicly thanked Commissioner Loftus regarding proposed funding for the Homeless Coalition and the Women and Children at Risk. There was an article in the paper stating that the Commissioners were supporting this effort to a degree and Evelyn stated she was sure Commissioner Loftus was instrumental in pushing this forward. Commissioner Loftus noted there would only be minimal funding available.
- Nathaniel Cooley commented that the Bayshore Live Oak Park event last weekend was very enjoyable and encouraged the County to continue to hold similar events. He also would like to encourage the Parks and Recreation Department put on a play at the park sometime in the future.
- Michael Haymans re-emphasized the importance of the January 24, 2009 Hands Across the Harbor being a signature event and looks forward to participation from the committee members. Emphasized the need for volunteers for the event and asked the members to spread the word...the more people involved, the greater the success of the event

XVI. Next Meeting Date

The next regular meeting of the Charlotte Harbor Community Redevelopment Agency Advisory Committee will be held on **Monday, December 15, 2008 at 1:30 p.m. in Room 119 of the Charlotte County Administration Center.**

XVII. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting **ADJOURNED** at 12 noon.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara D. Watkins, Recorder

/bdw

Approved: _____