

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING [Corrected](#)
CHARLOTTE HARBOR
COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Monday, December 15, 2008 – 1:30 p.m.
County Administration Building – Room 119
18500 Murdock Circle, Port Charlotte, FL 33948

Members Present

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

Staff Present

Commissioner Richard Loftus
Derek Rooney, Assistant County Attorney
Debrah Forester, Redevelopment Manager
Seann Smith, Planner II
Kathy M. Knee, Recorder
Rich Hoglund

Members Absent/Excused

Grace Amodeo, *Secretary*

Guests

I. Call to Order

Chairman Herston called the December 15, 2008 meeting of the Charlotte Harbor Community Redevelopment Agency Advisory Committee to order at 1:30 p.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; Chairman Herston confirmed a quorum was present.

IV. Additions/Deletions to Agenda

Mike Haymans requested to report on the Sign Banners because he was present at City of Punta Gorda CRA meeting on December 3rd – add to Old Business as Item b. Jim Herston requested an FDOT Update – add to Old Business as Item c.

V. Approval of Minutes

Charlotte Ventola mentioned there was a typo on Page 4, second line from the bottom – the word “no” should be “not”. A motion was presented by Mike Haymans and seconded by Charlotte Ventola to approve the Minutes of the November 20, 2008 Regular Meeting of the Charlotte Harbor Community Redevelopment Agency with this correction. Motion carried unanimously.

VI. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Loftus reviewed the formation of the Charlotte Harbor CRA and the use of TIF funding and other grants in an effort to clear misinformation that appeared in Letters to the Editor and e-mails to his office. Commissioner Loftus distributed an e-mail which he recently received.

VII. Public Comments

Garland Wilson asked that the CRA committee minutes be updated on the website in a more timely fashion and that the agenda for the upcoming meeting be posted to the website; he also requested that public input be allowed after each agenda discussion.

Roxann Shaddock questioned the status of addressing the zoning regulations regarding Charlotte County to help entertain the arts to drive out drugs. Discussion followed. Mike Haymans suggested that this issue be placed on January's Agenda: Arts & Business/Zoning Charlotte Harbor CRA.

Candice Webbe advised that she has talked with Team Punta Gorda and they are working with developing a similar concept to encourage an Arts Village in Punta Gorda.

VIII. Development Review Report – None.

IX. Old Business

CCU Low Pressure Sewer Project Update - Rich Hoglund, CCU Project Manager reported the completion of the low pressure sewer project. Certification was received from FDEP in November but will not be turned over to Operations until the contractor's punch list is complete. A retainage fee is being held until a few minor items are completed. This project was completed within budget and with a few upgrades, including landscaping. Discussion followed regarding low income grant. Residents have until January 5, 2009 to submit applications. The committee will revisit this issue in January to determine if funds can be used for other purposes.

Bridge Banners – Mike Haymans went to the Punta Gorda CRA meeting on December 3, 2008 and learned that the Punta Gorda CRA believes the Charlotte County CRA is the only party obligated to pay for maintenance of bridge banners per the agreement with FDOT. Staff was requested to research and review exact language regarding maintenance in meeting transcripts. Mr. Haymans asked the Punta Gorda CRA to delay their decision as the Charlotte Harbor CRA Advisory Committee was looking into alternative solutions. Punta Gorda CRA has tabled the discussion for 90 days to allow Charlotte Harbor to investigate alternative solutions.

Debrah Forester noted she has been talking with FDOT and is waiting to hear back from the structural engineer. Estimate from Public Works to perform the MOT to take down the banners was about \$4,000. Risk Management has been contacted to see if banners could be taken down from the sidewalk; a direct answer was not forthcoming. FDOT has not responded to the option of removing the banners from the sidewalk yet, this option would probably reduce the MOT costs. Another Consideration: Remove the banners but leave the bracket on pole so that special events held at the Event Center could install banners promoting specific events.

Mike Haymans requested that Bridge Banners be put on the Agenda for next month. Staff was asked to report on the following items at the January meeting so the Committee can make a decision:

- explore and develop options
- report on cost of all options
- review tape recording of meetings to determine cost sharing with Punta Gorda CRA
- investigate alternative banner designs including metal signs
- cost to remove brackets

FDOT Update -

Debrah Forester reported on two FDOT projects 1) a settlement agreement has been prepared which will close out the landscape grant – landscaping is installed and everyone has signed off, project was completed under budget; 2) mega sidewalk project has been worked out with a lump sum from FDOT in the amount of \$94,900. This item will be presented to the BCC in January. Sidewalk project should start in March and be finished by next summer.

Evelyn Loeffler mentioned that the sidewalks at Bayshore Live Oak Park are beginning to deteriorate already. Debrah Forester will send David Milligan a note about the sidewalks. Parks & Rec will be invited to the January meeting for an update.

Event Update - Mike Haymans presented new logo for the Hands Across the Harbor event. The logo will be on t-shirts, public service announcements and posters.

Corporate Sponsorships in the amount of \$250 are being solicited for the January 24th event. Business and Individual sponsors are available at the \$50 level. Door Prizes are also needed for a drawing the day of the event. Event goal is 400 participants, which will allow the event to break even.

X. New Business

Charlotte Players – Information Only – Marie Brais and Harry Scott Taylor explained the plans to possibly move Charlotte Players to Charlotte Harbor. They have an opportunity to purchase property on Laura Street and are looking for support from the committee. Charlotte Players is trying to obtain funding from the Venice Foundation. Parking issues were discussed - vacating alley and sharing parking areas with neighboring businesses – consensus was that sharing would be best solution. The committee agreed this is a very favorable project for the community. CRA may support by recommendation of approval to a variance or a letter of support for their grant.

Draft Work Plan 2009 – Debrah Forester distributed a draft work plan for 2009 and suggested a special meeting for a work plan workshop.

A motion was presented by Mike Haymans and seconded by Nathaniel Cooley to table the discussion of this draft work plan until January's meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Debrah Forester noted the TIF monies have increased considerably in a short period of time due to rebuilding after Charlie. New business growth is essential to support future funding of the CRA. Budget figures are conservative in light of the economy. A joint meeting is tentatively scheduled with the BCC on February 26 to review the work plan. In preparation of the joint meeting a special meeting of the advisory committee will be scheduled between January 5 and 9 (Charlotte is not available on Wednesdays). Staff will schedule the joint meeting with the BCC for February 26 at 10 a.m.

XI. Correspondence/Communications – The following documents were distributed with Agenda:

- Minutes from Punta Gorda CRA's December 3, 2008 meeting.
- http://ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/departments/cityclerk/council_info.htm - Activity Report from City of Punta Gorda dated December 3, 2008. Discussion about the committee's comfort level with updates on a monthly basis instead of a joint meeting ensued. Nathaniel Cooley noted that it was fortunate that Mike Haymans was in attendance at the December Punta Gorda CRA meeting and thought a representative should be present. Jim Herston said he would put these meetings on his calendar and try to attend.
- Charlotte Harbor MSBU Resolution.

XII. Public Comments

Harry Thomas suggested that when the banners are taken down the brackets should be left in place as removal may cause structure damage or there maybe a discoloration that might result in the need to repaint the poles.

XIII. Staff Comments

Debrah Forester commented on the following:

- Did the Committee still wish to meet at the Event Center in March? Consensus: yes.
- Walkable Communities brochure was distributed and committee members were encouraged to attend. Seann Smith agreed this workshop would be beneficial.
- Beginning in January, Ms. Forester will spend Mondays at the Historic Center in Charlotte Harbor to be more available to meet with businesses and residents. Meetings will be by appointment – not open door at this time.

XIV. Attorney Comments - None.

XV. Member Comments

Mike Haymans agreed that Mr. Wilson's comments were justified regarding the website posting of minutes and agenda and suggested that Public Comment be allowed informally to see how it works.

Evelyn Loeffler asked for clarification of Maintenance Dredging. Mr. Haymans responded that because Charlotte Harbor is an aquatic preserve the task of having this done is daunting and costly.

XVI. Next Meeting Date

The next regular meeting of the Charlotte Harbor Community Redevelopment Agency Advisory Committee will be held on **Thursday, January 22, 2009 at 10 a.m. in Room 119 of the Charlotte County Administration Center.**

Mike Haymans read his holiday poem.

XVII. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting **ADJOURNED** at 3:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy M. Knee, Recorder

/kmk

Approved: _____