

FEBRUARY 7, 2012

The Board of County Commissioners, Manatee County, Florida, convened as the Manatee County COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY in REGULAR SESSION in the Administrative Center, 1112 Manatee Avenue West, Bradenton, Florida, at 11:26 a.m.

Present were Agency Members:

Robin DiSabatino, Chairman
Michael Gallen, First Vice-Chairman
Lawrence E. Bustle, Jr.
John Chappie
Donna Hayes
Joe McClash
Carol Whitmore

Also present were:

Ed Hunzeker, County Administrator
Tedd Williams, Jr., County Attorney
Susan G. Romine, Board Records Director,
representing R. B. Shore, Clerk of Circuit Court

AGENDA

Agenda of February 7, 2012.

[CR20120207DOC001](#)

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion was made by Ms. Whitmore, seconded by Mrs. Hayes, and carried 7 to 0, to approve the consent agenda. Items APPROVED:

MINUTES

November 21, 2011, December 20, 2011, January 10, 2012, and January 24, 2012.

[CR20120207DOC002](#)

TAYLOR NURSERY PROPERTY

Cheri Coryea, Neighborhood Services Director, noted the Taylor Nursery property (corner of 63rd Avenue and 9th Street East) was purchased through the South County CRA Revenue Fund last year. The property has been discussed at work sessions, and the original work plan in 2003 established the need for a community center. Proposals and options for the property have been reviewed. Discussion at the October 4, 2011, joint work session with the South County CRA Board included seeking partnerships and a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a community center. In December 2011, the South County CRA Board requested an RFP. She referred to six options. The South County CRA Board would like to clear the property, remove a building, and use a portion of property as soccer fields or open play fields while considering a community center. The South County CRA Advisory Board could provide \$1 million (from the \$3 million set aside from the fund) for the partnership.

Discussion: Boys and Girls Club and YMCA services are available in South County; use of school facilities; clear the property and plant grass; focus on business revitalization; February meeting of South County CRA Advisory Board will include specifics regarding community center needs; medical, education, entrepreneurial and recreation services have been discussed; size and features of building; examples of buildings have been reviewed, but specifics were not defined; trespassing issues at school grounds if not included in a program due to liability issues; community center is different and more open to the community; county designed a community center footprint; YMCA survey; Dream Center accomplishment; RFP to ask providers what services can be provided and funding options; RFP should include an option if additional funds are included; RFP is to explore options to enhance services; South County gang issues have decreased; encouraging to see community transition; etc.

Mr. McClash disclosed ownership of properties in the South County CRA.

Ed Hunzeker, County Administrator, suggested the Neighborhood Services Department work with the CRA to ascertain minimum requirements (medical, computer center, etc.) to be included in an RFP, noting the lack of funds to operate the facility. Responders could provide input regarding capital costs, and provided programs. A format of an RFP could be presented at the March meeting providing details for the Board to finalize direction for an RFP.

(Depart Ms. Whitmore)

Discussion: RFP will be done internally; consider a basic community center and invest in the businesses; contributions from the community and fundraising efforts; support County Administrator's suggestion; partners are coming forward; etc.

Remonia Lewis voiced concern for the young Hispanic children in the area and requested clearing a section of the land for soccer fields. She suggested the project be done in phases similar to Pride Park and noted a community center will encourage life skills.

(Depart Mr. McClash)

Jerry Parrish and **Sean Allison**, representing the YMCA, spoke in support of the community center RFP. Mr. Allison stated the RFP process will review partnerships.

John Mann, South County CRA Chairman, spoke in support of the RFP. The CRA would like to have a double gymnasium for evening and midnight basketball. There are 12 students (former gang members) who will graduate in June.

David English, South County CRA member, acknowledged the recent approval of \$50,000 to enhance the business community in the South County Area and spoke in support of a community center to provide counseling and direction to bring the community together.

Timothy Sumey, South County CRA member, requested approval to begin clean out of the treed areas and create a soccer field.

(Depart Mr. Bustle)

Daniel Judge, Honeycomb Company, stated as a resident/employer in South County and a member of the YMCA Board, the community works because of these agencies. Partnership is a healthy opportunity for this community. Honeycomb focuses ten percent of its jobs toward South County area residents. He encouraged support of the RFP process.

Lawrence Rose, financial advisor, spoke in support of the RFP for the community center to provide a place for community residents.

Carl Weeks noted the service of the YMCA, and the Boys and Girls Club working with children in the Pride Park community. He acknowledged his support for an RFP.

Alison Hewitt, Central Economic Development Center, stated a business survey (including big box business) has been conducted, and the report will be presented February 21, 2012. Businesses are excited to partner with the CRA Advisory Board, the CRA Board, and the County to improve the area.

Mr. Hunzeker stated staff will proceed toward the RFP proposal.

[CR20120207DOC003](#)

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Adj: 12:21 p.m./njh

Minutes Approved: March 27, 2012