

MAY 8, 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 11:19 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
Mitchell O. Palmer, County Attorney
Susan G. Romine, Board Records Director,
representing R. B. Shore, Clerk of Circuit Court

AGENDA

Agenda of May 8, 2012, and agenda update memorandum.

[CR20120508DOC001](#)

MINUTES

Motion was made by Mrs. Hayes, seconded by Ms. Whitmore, and carried 7 to 0, to approve the minutes of March 27, 2012.

[CR20120508DOC002](#)

SOUTH COUNTY BUSINESS SURVEY

Speaking of the positive differences made in the South County Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) area by the Central Economic Development Center, Inc. (CEDC) and efforts to increase public awareness were: **Ellen Meade**, Ellen Meade Studios, Inc.; **Phyllis Dobbins** and **Dick Wallis**, 14th Street business owners.

Alison Hewitt, CEDC Executive Director, read a letter of thanks from **Brent Everett** (Wells Fargo Branch Manager) for CEDC assistance in getting his business started.

Ms. Hewitt presented the results of the 2011-2012 South County CRA Business Survey conducted by the CEDC. The survey collected baseline data from 100 businesses located in the South County CRA. The South County CRA Advisory Board will use the information to develop future strategies and identify opportunities for providing assistance, education and technical support to improve the South County CRA as a place to operate a business.

[CR20120508DOC003](#)

MIDTOWN MANATEE

Ms. Hewitt presented an update on the Midtown Manatee Project. The CEDC worked closely with 14th Street West CRA business owners to create a new 14th Street West CRA re-branding "MidTown Manatee." Highlights of the report (in agenda memorandum) were summarized: MidTown Manatee Events; new MidTown Manatee Decals; Neighborhood Sign Locations; Neighborhood Sign Sample; on-line package/website, and a business directory.

April Childers, CEDC, spoke of upcoming events and advised that an extensive, on-line, direct ad campaign is under way.

Discussion: All businesses involved in CEDC efforts have experienced revenue increases; ongoing projects; CEDC offers assistance in business operations and budgeting; next step involves assisting businesses with loan financing; CEDC is working with owners of vacant parcels of land and/or empty store fronts; etc.

[CR20120508DOC004](#)

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Adj: 11:51 a.m.
/rll

Minutes Approved: September 11, 2012