

MINUTES

Immokalee Community Redevelopment Agency Advisory Committee

March 19, 2014

750 South 5th Street, Immokalee, FL

a) Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mike Facundo, CRA Chair at 8:39 a.m.

b) Roll Call and Announcement of a Quorum.

Advisory Committee/EZDA Members Present:

Floyd Crews, Frank Nappo, Carrie Williams, Mike Facundo, Ski Olesky, Cristina Perez, and Estil Null.

Advisory Committee/EZDA Members Absent/Excused:

Jim Wall, Robert Halman and Julio Estremera.

Action: A quorum was announced as being present for all boards.

Others Present: Paul Midney, Chief Paul Anderson, Steve Hart, Wayne Arnold, Amanda Correia, Laura Layden, Dawn Ratican, Danny Gonzalez, Zuzuki Camerso, Elizabeth Velazquez, Armando Yzaguirre, Barry Williams (9:50am), Ilonka Washburn (9:50am), and Annie Alvarez (10:09am).

Staff: Brad Muckel, Christie Betancourt and James Sainvilus.

c) Introductions. The board members present and members of the public introduced themselves.

d) Announcements.

a. Marie Capita

CRA staff announced that Marie Capita is out sick.

b. BCC Agenda Items

i. 3/11/14: DRI Grant Request – North 16th Street Sidewalks & Drainage

ii. 3/25/14: CRA 2013 Annual Report and IBDC Funding Request

Staff announced the Agenda items that were presented to the CRA Board on March 11, 2014 and the items that will go before the board on March 25, 2014.

c. 2015 CRA Budget

Staff announced that the CRA and MSTU draft budget will be presented to both boards.

Staff would like to meet jointly with both boards April 16, 2014.

e) Adoption of Agenda

Action: Mr. Olesky made a motion to approve the Agenda with a 10:00 AM Time Certain change to Hb. Mr. Null seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote. 7-0

Advisory Chair, Mike Facundo informed the board and public that if they would like to speak on an Agenda item if they could please fill out a comment form an turn in to Christie Betancourt before the Agenda Item is discussed and they would have three minutes to speak on that item.

f) Communications.

The folder containing the Public Notices, application for DRI, complete Large Retailer package, and complete draft Crosswalk study was presented to the board.

g) Approval of Minutes

a. Approval of Minutes for the February 19, 2014 Joint Meeting of the CRA, EZDA & MSTU board.

CRA/EZDA Board Action vote.

Action: Mr. Olesky made a motion to approve the minutes for the February 19, 2014 CRA Meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Null and the minutes were approved by unanimous vote. 7-0

h) CRA New Business

a. Collier MPO

Staff had a meeting with MPO staff Lucillia Ayer and Jeff Perry from Stantec on March 10, 2014. At this meeting it was discussed that all the Immokalee entities MSTU, CRA, and other community groups need to come up with a list of the top 5 transportation related projects they would like to see constructed in Immokalee. This list should remain

consistent as it is brought to all the meetings (CAC, PAC, TAC, MPO etc.). This is the only way that they will move up in the rankings to be selected for funding.

Staff also provided board with The Collier Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) transportation target documents for the Immokalee Area, the MPO meeting schedule for 2014, and the MPO news letter for winter 2013.

After discussion board gave staff a couple of suggested roads for new construction and improved construction. The roads were Experimental Road, Little League extension, New Market Road, Lake Trafford Road, and State Road 29. Staff will continue to take suggestions from the community and tally a list to be presented to the board for final selection. Mr. Nappo volunteered to attend the MPO, PAC CAC meetings in Naples. The CRA Advisory Board requested a list of public and private roads in Immokalee.

b. First Street Plaza Maintenance Discussion

Barry Williams, Director from Collier County Parks & Recreation and Annie Alvarez, Regional Manager for Immokalee discussed the partnership between the Immokalee CRA, the Immokalee MSTU and Collier County Parks & Recreation.

Mr. Williams mentioned that a Program Income Plan would need to be created since CDBG funding was used to construct the Plaza, although he did not expect the facility to produce revenues in excess of the maintenance costs. Parks & Recreation will have first a draft of its maintenance budget in April to present as part of the joint meeting with MSTU, CRA and Parks & Recreation staff.

Carrie Williams requested a joint MSTU – CRA and Park Advisory Board meeting.

c. Draft Immokalee Crosswalk Improvement Study – Presentation

A presentation was given by Amanda Correia from AIM Engineering. A Q&A session was conducted by AIM.

Aim Engineering was tasked with evaluating the pedestrian crossing movement of SR 29 (Main Street) from 9th Street to CR 846 (1st Street) and 1st Street from Main Street to north of Delaware Avenue. In the past seven years there have been 42 reported pedestrian/bicycle crashes with three of them resulting in fatalities.

The major modes of transportation include walking, bicycles and buses.

Volume counts for vehicles, pedestrian counts and qualitative assessments were all conducted for a weekday and a weekend during the peak harvest months. Based on the quantitative and qualitative assessment, AIM recommends the following improvement for the referenced roadways.

Main Street and 1st Street

Install fences/railings/barriers in the medians at least four feet away from the back of curb. If the four feet cannot be obtained, the barriers must be installed with a breakaway base. The barriers will direct pedestrians to use crosswalks, full and channelized median openings.

Install in-pavement lights at the crosswalks that would be activated by an automatic detection device and have either highlighted pedestrian crossing signs or Rectangular Rapid Flash Beacons (RRFB). This will alert motorists that someone is entering or waiting to enter the crosswalk. Currently, landscaping planters on the sidewalk at 5th Street hide the pedestrian from approaching motorists. These lights would alert motorists to pedestrians wanting to cross.

Landscaping in the medians should be kept to low shrubs at least 100 feet approaching the mid-block crossings.

Conduct a Bike Lights program with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and the local Sheriff's office to distribute bicycle lights.

Mark all side street crosswalks with high emphasis markings because of the high number of pedestrians.

Have maintenance replace the burned out street lighting.

Main Street

Change 2,700 feet of Main Street into a "Pedestrian Zone" and lower the speed limit to 30 miles per hour (mph). The 30 mph speed limit is recommended based on the results of a

spot speed study in which the 85th-percentile speed is 33 mph on Main Street. The survival rate of a pedestrian being struck by a vehicle would increase from 40 percent at 35 mph to 60 percent at 30 mph, based on National Highway Traffic Safety Administration data. Remove the flashing beacon "Pedestrian Crossing Ahead" signs if the posted speed is lowered to 30 mph, and designate this area as a pedestrian zone.

Add a crosswalk at 2nd Street. Based on the pedestrian counts and with the barrier in place, the 343 pedestrians crossing in the median, between crosswalks will be forced to either use the crosswalk at 3rd Street or will cross at 2nd Street. There is a harvester's bus pick-up and drop-off lot just south of Main Street with openings on 2nd Street and 3rd Street. This is a large pedestrian generator. The grocery store/restaurant is a large pedestrian generator as well, because it is open in the mornings and there are many buses that use that parking lot to pick-up and drop-off pedestrians.

1st Street

Install an additional crossing at Colorado Avenue. There are over 750 pedestrians (combined total) crossing in this area during the peak hours of a typical weekday and weekend day. There is an apartment complex on the east side of 1st Street that generates a large amount of pedestrian traffic.

Staff will provide board with comment form to be turned in by next advisory board meeting.

i) CRA Old Business

- a. CP-2013-8 Proposed Amendment to the IAMP for large scale retailer - Q&A (Enc 5) CRA staff provided board with a hard copy and email copy of the new back-up documentation in the application packet for the large scale retailer. Mr. Wayne Arnold reported that his firm updated the economic impact data in their packet and that the application would now go before the Collier County Planning Commission on Tuesday, April 29, 2014 at 5:00 PM at the Immokalee High School auditorium. Notices will be sent out to residents within 500 ft. of the property and signs will be posted at the site location. The Collier County Growth Planning Department staff will provide translators at the meeting and will be sending out the meeting notice.

Board Comments:

Floyd Crews would like to see road improvements on the corner of Westclock and State Road 29.

Frank Nappo supports the proposed amendments and he informed the board, public and staff that 125 families that live within the Immokalee Housing and Family Services area would benefit from a large retailer in their area.

Carrie Williams said she took a poll from her local bank and all were in support their only concern was traffic congestion and the cleanliness of the area. They said that most businesses in Immokalee don't keep up with the upkeep regarding the façades of their building and the parking lot areas.

Estil Null supports the proposed amendments but would like to know if roads are sufficient to handle a large retailer.

Public Speakers on this item:

Paul Midney said he was in support of the proposed amendment.

Armando Yzaguirre who works with A & M Maintenance is in support of the proposed amendment.

Danny Gonzalez who owns Lozano's Restaurant in Immokalee is in support of the proposed amendment. He said that his family is expanding the restaurant and encourages competitive business.

Action: *Mr. Nappo made a motion to support CP-2013-8 Proposed Amendment to the Immokalee Area Master Plan for the large scale retailer. Ms. Williams seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote 7-0.*

Action: *Mr. Crews made a motion that the Advisory Board send a letter to the Collier County Planning Commissioner to voice concern over the road traffic congestion that will be coming from CP-2013-8 Proposed Amendment to the Immokalee Area Master Plan for larger scale retailer. Mr. Nappo seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote 7-0.*

Other areas of concern that were discussed by the board were adding a stop light and a merge lane from New Market Road to SR 29. They would also like to see the MSTU triangle area either moved or made smaller.

b. Advisory Board vacancies

Staff received a renewal application for Mr. Null. Staff announced that there were still vacancies on the Advisory Board. Board members requested that staff look into the possibility of amending the enabling ordinance to broaden the prevue of allowable Board members.

Action: *Ms. Williams made a motion to re-elect Estil Null to the CRA Advisory board. Mr. Nappo seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote 6-0.*

c. Façade Grant Program

i. Paralegal & Notary Services Extension

Mr. Volcy would like to extend his agreement because he is having issues with the contractor. Mr. Volcy wasn't present to discuss so board decided not to have any further action on this matter.

d. Main Street Median Project – FDOT Response Letter

Action: *Mr. Nappo made a motion to do a 50/50 cost share with FDOT for the existing Joint Participation Agreement - Main Street Median Project. Mr. Null seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote 7-0.*

CRA board would also like for staff to send Jaime Weisinger from Lipman Produce an email asking if they are in agreement with the revised median plan. Mr. Floyd Crews announced that Lipman Produce has come up with a short term solution by using their back gate to enter the packing house.

e. MSTU Project Manager

Project Manager gave a report on MSTU projects.

f. Code Enforcement.

Mr. Cristina Perez reported that the Collier County Code Enforcement Department conducted a clean up at the Eden Park area on March 18, 2014 and collected at total of 14 ½ tons of waste, of which 6 ½ tons were tires. The next clean up will be May 24, 2014 at either on the CRA property on 9th and Main or on the vacant property across the street.

j) Citizen Comments:

Staff informed board that the consultancy RFP related to the Immokalee Business Development Center USDA RBEG Grant feasibility study for \$35,000 is going to be re-advertised.

k) Next Meeting Date: CRA & EZDA Meeting April 16, 2014 at 8:30 A.M.

l) Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 11: 05 am