MINUTES
Meeting of the Community Redevelopment Agency Advisory Committee on June 15, 2016.
Immokalee Airport – Salazar Machine & Steel Conference Room
190 Airpark Blvd. Suite 105, Immokalee, Florida 34142
(239) 657-9003

A. Call to Order.
The meeting was called to order by Frank Nappo, CRA Chair at 8:33 AM.
B. Roll Call and Announcement of a Quorum.
Advisory Committee/EZDA Members Present:
Mike Facundo, Estil Null, Andrea Halman, Joseph Mucha, Cindy Lozano, Jim Wall, and Frank Nappo.
Advisory Committee Members Absent/Excused:
Martha Williams and Julio Estremera.
Staff: Michelle Arnold, Christie Betancourt and James Sainvilus.
C. Introductions. Chairman Frank Nappo introduced himself and welcomed all to the meeting. All other board members introduced themselves to the members of the public.
D. Adoption of Agenda.
Staff presented agenda to the board for approval. Agenda was approved with one revision.
Action: Mr. Estil Null made a motion for the CRA to adopt the Agenda with one correction. Remove the words formally known as from agenda item H.3. Mr. Ski Olesky seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote. 8-0.
E. Approval of Minutes.
1. Approval of Minutes for the Joint May 18, 2016 CRA & MSTU Advisory Committee Meeting. (Enclosure 1)
Action: Mr. Ski Olesky made a motion to approve the minutes for the Joint May 18, 2016 CRA & MSTU Advisory Committee Meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Estil Null and the minutes were approved by unanimous vote. 8-0.
F. Announcements
1. Meetings and Public Comment speaker slips
CRA staff reiterated the public speaker 3 minute speaker slip policy. The board will give more time if they feel it necessary.
2. Commissioner Nance – Promise Zone Designation
CRA staff introduced Commissioner Nance as a speaker for today. Commissioner Nance provided all board members with a copy of packet that provided information about the Promise Zone Designation program. The Commissioner noted that a momentous thing has occurred which opens up an opportunity to develop Immokalee and this entire region, which is the designation and creation of the Southwest Florida Rural Promise Zone.
The CRA & MSTU board members were provided an introductory sheet that was produced by the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council who was the central agency that made the application for this destination. He congratulated everybody for achieving this prestigious designation.

The Commission informed the group that the Promise Zone program was created by President Obama’s administration in early 2014 and is a special program designed to assist regions and communities of less than 200,000 people with distinct economic challenges but demonstrated the ability and desire to do great things for themselves and together with others in their region.

As a little background two applications have been filed for this designation, one last year and one this year. The application was a very extensivemonster application and covers a region which consists of all of Glades County, all of Hendry County, and the community of Immokalee in Collier County. We were a finalist last year and when it came back up in 2016 we refined our application and were awarded this year. There are three kinds of Promise Zones, Urban, Rural, and Tribal and the Immokalee community is part of a Rural Promise Zone. We will be the last that will be designated. Commissioner Nance noted that we are in a real good place.

**What is a Promise Zone Designation?**

It is a commitment from the federal government for a period of ten years that makes our promise zone eligible for 69 separate and distinct federal programs of assistance. It does not carry any money. What is does is it lets you apply for a whole list of programs. There are five main goals that the promise zones have and we had to address each one of them. They are the following:

- Economic Activity
- Creating Jobs
- Improving the Educational Opportunities
- Reducing Crime
- Community Infrastructure (sidewalks, utilities, things that improve the community physically)

**Why was our application successful?**

Our application was successful because it is going to determine if we have success going forward in utilizing the program. His thoughts are that we were successful because the decision makers saw that we had tremendous working relationship between many working relationships. It looked at local agency involvement, our economic development efforts, and relationships with the school districts, community involvement, our relationship with the University of Florida, and our relationship with the Ag Council.

This commitment from the federal government is for a decade and comes with a liaison in Washington that is going to work with us with this promise zone We are also going to have volunteers through the Vista Program.

The CRA is very well positioned with Michelle Arnold as your staff. She is a wonderful skilled staff member. We are very lucky to have Kristi Bartlett with the
Naples Chamber, Jace Kentner with the Office of Business and Economic Development and this advisory board played a part in this.

What is it? What is it not?  
It is the ability to make ourselves eligible for these federal programs. You will get details on this from CRA staff and me. This is a team sport because we have three implementing partners. The three implementing partners are Glades County, Hendry County, and Collier County. These entities are going put this promise zone into motion and capture the program for the region. This is a regional effort not just Immokalee.

Carrie Williams asked when you said we are regional partners with Glades and Hendry County so when we apply for a grant do we all have to apply together or separate?

He suggested that it’s very likely if we don’t partner with Glades and Hendry County we are not going to be successful. We are not competing for the benefits for Glades and Hendry County so we have to work together.

Fred Thomas asked if we have an advisory committee with a representative from each county to discuss these issues.

Commissioner Nance said the federal liaison is going to working directly with the implementation partners. Yes we will have a distinct liaison.

Mr. Jim Wall said that the Southwest Florida Workforce Development Board suggests that a representative of Immokalee be on the advisory board for the Promise Zone.

Commissioner Nance said it will be the job of staff in some way to work together with our implementing partners to make things happen. It was wonderful to have the meeting at the Airport today. We need to think locally but act regionally. That is how we are going to be successful.

Pam Brown asked what do you mean when you say the Immokalee area.
Commissioner Nance said the area that is identified on the map.

Dr. Nappo wanted to recognize the formal Immokalee CRA Chair, Mike Facundo for all the things that has happened with his leadership and all the work he has done for this organization and all the people of Immokalee.

Marvin Courtright said that the article in the paper regarding the Promise Zone was a great article. He said the first thing he did is file a petition to the county under that program to activate a federal inspection station at the Immokalee Airport. All it needs is a signature from the county commission.
Commissioner Nance told all present if they would like a copy of the Promise Zone packet please call his aide Jim Flanagan and he will forward you and electronic copy.

3. Collier County Airport Authority – Justin Lobb
   Justin Lobb introduced himself and said he is very impressed with the turnout; and he was very honored to have everyone there. He mentioned that when Christie Betancourt approached him about having a meeting at the airport he was hesitant because they really didn’t have much meeting space to accommodate everyone. Fortunately his friend, Mr. Pete Salazar of Salazar Machine and Steel, was able to accommodate the meeting.
   Mr. Lobb mentioned that it is a very exciting time for Immokalee with the accelerator kitchen that will be completed soon. He mentioned that they have a lease going to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) for that facility within the next two weeks. Then we are looking to get started with the built out around this summer or fall.

   Mr. Lobb also noted that one of the biggest projects that they were getting ready to undertake in the next few months is an update to the Airport Master Plan and Airport Layout Plan. They recently applied for a FAA Grant for about $180,000 to revamp their 5, 10, 15, and 20 year master plan for capital projects. The plan will include capital projects such as taxiway and runway rehabilitation, runway extension study, hangar development, and industrial development. I’ll an all inclusive update and lay the framework for what will be the next 20 year development plan. It is sanctions and approved by the FAA.

   Another project scheduled to before the board at their next meeting is a bid award to replace our weather observation station on the airport property. It is very exciting for the airport and the community of Immokalee because it will function as the official weather station for the community. It will allow the local news outlets to pick up on the official weather data for Immokalee. Anybody will be able to access it from any weather app.

   The Immokalee Airport will also be getting its own mobile fuel trucks within the next couple of months. Historically anytime they needed local refueling they had to borrow from the Marco Airport. Immokalee’s new mobile refueling trucks will provide for full mobile refueling capacity for all aircrafts and will lighten the workload for staff and hopefully allow them to attract the larger corporate jets.

   Mr. Lobb also gave an update on the following businesses at the Immokalee Airport:
   - Fletcher Flying Services – They purchased another air tractor. Looking into purchasing a hangar.
   - Salazar Machine and Steel – They have a unique tomato harvesting piece of equipment. They are working on marketing it.
   - Tellus Florida – Expanding and constructing prefabricated concrete.
   - ATV Park – Potential ATV Park here at the airport. Northern portion of the airport currently in environmental review feasibility study.
   - Immokalee Regional Raceway – Working with third party for leasing out the race track.
Mr. Lobb wanted to thank Commissioner Nance for his support of the Immokalee airport.
Dr. Nappo would like for CRA staff to put the Immokalee Airport on the agenda on a quarterly basis.
Christie Betancourt asked Mr. Lobb if they are planning to add more hangars.
Mr. Lobb said that they are in our plans to add hangars when they determine what the needs are.

G. CRA Manager Report
1. CRA New Staff
   Staff announced that we have hired Terry Rosalez as the Administrative Assistant starting June 27, 2016.
2. Grant Program
   i. Commercial Façade Grant -
      Staff provided board an update and a brief background on Lozano’s Restaurant Commercial Façade Grant. Staff will bring pictures to you next month to show you the progress of the restaurant.
   ii. Sweat Equity Grant -
      Staff reviewed program requirements for the Sweat Equity Grant. No applications have been received to date.
3. Priority List for Immokalee Projects
   This item would be discussed further down on the agenda.

H. New Business
1. EP2 (Eden Park - Esperanza Place Plan) draft Strategies – Rural Neighborhoods Presentation – Dottie Cook
   Ms. Dottie Cook thanked the board for the opportunity to tell you about a project that they have been working on for about the last year and a half. The organization she represents is Rural Neighborhoods which started in 1982 in the Florida City area near Miami and is focused based primarily on providing farm worker housing. Today they operate 1,600 units of affordable housing in Florida. In 2003 they started here in Immokalee. All together they will have a little over 300 units here in Immokalee which include properties below.
They got started in this project through a plan for the western portion of Immokalee. They are a NeighborWorks America organization. NeighborWorks receives funding directly from Congress and they offered a grant opportunity to their members two years ago. It was a Catalytic Grant for member organizations to apply for funding for projects that went beyond the boundaries of their organization to reach beyond housing development and into the community. The Director, Steve Kirk, applied for the grant and was successful. The organization received the grant to work with partners and residents/stakeholders in the area to promote neighborhood change and improve surrounding areas. The boundaries are shown in map below.

![Map of Eden Park – Esperanza Place (EP²) Target Area](image)

Ms. Cook also discussed demographics, land use, residential uses, housing tenure, and early projects.

Their next step is to publish the plan in July. They would like the community’s input and suggestions for the plan. They would also like the CRA/MSTU’s support going forward in terms of being a partner as they pursue some of these activities in the Eden Park and Westclox area and reaching out to other neighborhoods and other residents.
Jonas Marvelous said that he was told that the key to success is doing the right road with the right entrainment you want to get the committee involved to doing a lot of things. The main focus here is that we are looking at the apple in the wrong eye. He suggested that we have to actually implement everybody in Collier County to look inside of Immokalee. We don’t have the right sidewalks and the right lights here in Immokalee.

Danny Gonzalez would like to know what we can do for our teachers. Don’t forget about the people that are here year around.

Mr. Jim Wall said we need to have a conversation about affordable workforce housing.

Ms. Dottie Cook said that their neighborhoods are not just for farm worker housing.

Ms. Andrea Halman mentioned that Arrowhead is building houses again. They have about 4 or 5 houses going up and already have about 6 built. They have 4 or 5 different designs to choose from.

Ms Tamara Paquette said that Arrowhead news is really good for business. There is money to be made in making housing here in Collier County.

Ms. Lucy Ortiz asked why the area shown on the map had such high percentage of vacant property.

Ms. Dottie Cook said that some of the green areas are preserves. The other large areas are owned by Barron Collier. There is also a lot of vacant residential in the Arrowhead area.

Chief Paul Anderson said there is a lack of housing for some blue collar and mid level employees.

Pam Brown asked Commissioner Nance whether there was an item on the board yesterday to study housing in Collier County.

Commissioner Nance said that was a key item on the board agenda yesterday. He also said that the advisory committee for the CRA needs to work on the Growth Management Plan review. That process will take about a year and a half.

Commissioner Nance announced and congratulated Ms. Andrea Halman for being appointed to the Pathways Advisory Committee (PAC) last week.

**Action:** Mr. Jim Wall made a motion to endorse the plan presented by Rural Neighborhoods. Mr. Ski Olesky seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote. 8-0.

Ms. Claudette Williams asked Ms. Dottie Cook if they were looking for community to expand their project into. She suggests looking at the south side of Immokalee from 9th Street to 5th Street.
2. Collier County Office of Business & Economic Development – Jace Kentner
   i. Local and State Incentives
   Mr. Jace Kentner, Interim Director with Business and Economic Development with Collier County introduced himself. Mr. Kentner said the Office of Business and Economic Development is tasked with lots of things. One of the most important things is to work with their partners. He introduced Kristi Bartlett, Vice President of Naples Chamber/Opportunity Naples as one of the key partner. Mrs. Bartlett is a certified economic developer so we are very blessed to have her. Another partner is the Southwest Florida Economic Development Alliance, Eric Burtland, and his group. He briefly discussed their roll in stimulating economic development is the region. Ms. Bartlett’s specialty is retention and expansion and Mr. Burtland does attraction with national and international companies. Mr. Kentner’s role is to help them meet goals and objectives.

   The Office of Business & Economic Development relies heavily on coordinating with the CRA here in Immokalee and will be try to make their presence known. Ms. Bartlett said that they will be coming out to Immokalee on a monthly basis.

   As the accelerator is being built out next door, the community will see them more and more. Mr. Kentner meets weekly with the county manager and advising him on Immokalee activities as things they are doing in the community is definitely on the radar.

   Jace Kentner advised the CRA/MSTU of their plan to conduct a Focus Group for the Immokalee Culinary Accelerator that is being planned. He said that they received 2 million dollars for state appropriation and have applied for two federal grants, one for $200,000 USDA grant to help with the purchase of equipment. The other grant was for $800,000 from the Economic Development Agency which is a federal agency. They strongly believe that they’ll get those grants. The funding should be awarded as soon as the end of summer, July or August. Mr. Kentner invited the group to attend the focus group session scheduled today at 3:00 p.m. at the CRA office. They are going to be asking questions to find out what is needed in the community to make the culinary accelerator a success.

   Mr. Kentner said they tend to focus a lot on business retention and expansion; then went on to briefly talked about some of the incentive programs they offer.

   Dr. Frank Nappo stated, they’re talking in globally, but the community wants to know what’s happening here in Immokalee. He stated that everyone is very appreciative of what they’ve done in the county. What’s out there for us (Immokalee)? He wanted to know what we can do to get on their plate?
Mr. Kentner responded with “Thank you”. They plan on doing some amazing things, one thing mentioned was the tour of the facility next door that has access to venture capital. He noted that the venture capital just handed out the first $100,000.00.

Mr. Kentner said that they have resources right next door, to anyone that has an idea, whether its culinary that just seems to be the natural for the community. To be able to create a company like the Taste of Immokalee and put the products in the thousands of Publix stores is a great example. With the accelerator they can purchase products and put together machines that can make production better.

Dr. Nappo stated that we want to make our own product. We have someone making it right now.

Jace Kentner stated you could even make the salsa here in town, you have two things in this town; you have the dedicated people and the resources.

Ms. Cherryle Thomas commented that her and her husband constantly get calls asking about creating a business in Immokalee, but when they tell them they have to go the Naples Economics Dept. that turns them off. Why can’t we have a representative from the Economics Dept. in Immokalee once a week?

Kristi Bartlett commented that she is available to come out once a month but if there is a need for her to come out more than that or if anyone has any concerns they are welcomed to call her. She is committed to come and answer any questions, or help with anything the community wants. That’s what she is here for.

Christie Betancourt states that she is working with Kristi and Jace in regards to that and have a meeting with them today.

Fred Thomas wants to know the status of the satellite media to view the BCC meetings.

Dr. Nappo responds that they have contacted the county, and all the meetings need to be made accessible to all the community members. We could go to the library and hook up there to see the meeting. He thanked Mr. Kentner for his presentation.

Ms. Christie Betancourt stated that before we move on please review Enclosures 5a through 5c in your agenda packet they show some of the incentives that Mr. Jace Kentner was speaking about.
*CRA Chair requested that we move to Agenda item I.5.

   1.5. 2015 Land Development Code Amendment Cycle 2 – update
       i. 203.07 Overlay Zoning District, 4.02.33 Specific Design Standards for Immokalee – Mobile Home Park Overlay Subdistrict, 10.02.05 Construction, Approval, and Acceptance of Required Improvements.

   Staff provided board with enclosure 5a – 5c which is the Land Development Code Amendment packet for Immokalee Non-conforming Mobile Home Park and Admin Code.

   Caroline Cilek, LDC Manager with Collier County Growth Management Department introduced herself and told the board she was there to answer any questions that they may have regarding the proposed LDC Amendment for the Immokalee Mobile Home Park Overlay Sub-district.

   CHANGE: To provide a new application and approval process for nonconforming mobile home sites in Immokalee to be considered a permitted use and lawful. The new application, described as an “existing conditions site improvement plan” will provide property owners of the mobile homes the ability to replace mobile home units with an approved building permit. The new unit will be required to meet current Florida Building Code requirements and all other local building construction standards. This amendment is designed to assist several groups. First, it will allow mobile home owners who rent their mobile home units to upgrade their parks with new mobile home units. Second, it will allow individuals and families that own their mobile home and rent the lot to replace their units as well. Additionally, the proposed process seeks to encourage maintaining housing options that are more affordable for low income populations in Immokalee.

   Ms Andrea Halman wanted to know if residents could be included in all meetings held with the mobile home park owners regarding this amendment.

   Ms. Caroline Cilek said they have included all the comments provided by the community and that they acknowledge that in this amendment they didn’t include the public and apologize for not including the public earlier.

   Dr. Frank Nappo had a concern over one on one trade-out for density. Is it going to be a straight trade-out or does it provide an opportunity to add more trailers?

   Dr. Frank Nappo mentioned if anyone has any vested interests to please speak up now.
Ms. Cilek responded with looking at the packet on pg. 8. Ultimate goal for the amendment is to allow replacement of units. Once existing conditions and site criteria on homes have been approved with building permits, they then would need to go through the Collier County building dept and meet current code standards.

Dr. Frank Nappo asked if that only applied for the trade-in and trade-outs.

Ms. Cilek stated that’s for new ones correct, when a new unit is brought in to replace an old one.

Christie Betancourt asked, “Does it have to be a mobile home installer to install the unit?”

Ms. Cilek responds with she doesn’t represent the building codes, whatever the requirements are from them is what needs to be met.

Dr. Frank Nappo wanted to clarify to trade-in, trade-out a trailer, what are the requirements?

Ms. Cilek responded with, the new mobile home going in needs to meet the current Florida building code and the site criteria. She can go over that when she’s finished explaining the density question. Replacement units can be larger than removed units (they recognize that the newer ones are large) so long as the minimum separation unit criteria are met. There are two situations for density: 1. Where property currently exceeds the amount allowed by the zoning district, perhaps the underlying zoning district has 5 units per acres and the site has 6. The approved existing condition site plan shall establish the maximum density on the property shall not exceed the density as of what was depicted on the property appraiser’s map, it could be an aerial from 2004 or it could be today.

Dr. Frank Nappo asked, could that prevent one from trading in and out if they’re exceeding?

Ms. Cilek responded with, “No,” it’ll allow them to utilize the density allowed previously on the lot as determined by the property appraiser’s aerial. If they had 11 on a parcel previously back in 2004, and they can demonstrate that then that’s what they would be allowed to use today. They do need to meet the site to size standard and the Florida building codes for the new unit.

Michelle Arnold commented that at the planning commission meeting a representative from the health dept. made a comment that the fire standards may be less stringent than the health dept. standards for lot size. For example the fire dept may just require a 10 foot separation, but the
Health Department who is responsible for inspecting mobile home parks require each lot to be 35 feet in width.

Ms. Caroline Cilek stated that this is something they are working through and are actually going to meet with the fire dept and work with them. These standards are with the land development codes and were adopted by our board and enforced by Collier County. However, the health dept. does have their own set of standards and are different than the fire standards that we were utilizing. She was unsure how the restrictions would apply when a unit is grand-fathered into the system. A part of the process with the building code is that the mobile home unit that would be replaced would be reviewed by the Collier County building permit and also by the dept. of health. Because it is a state agency, their comments will go along with that permit.

Mike Facundo asked if there is an existing non-conforming mobile home prior to this adoption by February, if there’s a mobile home that exceeds its density on a non-conforming site and the property owner that wants to replace it. Will he/she get to keep the same density or does that owner have to bring it into conformance into the current code?

Ms. Cilek stated that the owner will be able to replace to the former aerial on what that density shows and they can meet the standards proposed for the non-conforming park there’s no other LDC section that’s going to apply.

Mike Facundo comments, what keeps the property owners accountable are basically the separation requirements.

Ms. Cilek responds with a “correct”.

Mike Facundo states this is LDC it’s a legal issue this is legislative and once it’s adopted it will be pretty hard to change.

Ms. Cilek stated that one of the things that the county commissioners talked about was that the prior provisions were not working and were outdated. They wanted to help people who were looking to replacing units.

Mr. Anderson comments, those are issues, and they’ve been issues since we’ve been here. This I think is a step in the right direction; some of the parks have moved old, beat-up mobile homes on their own because of safety concerns.

We are not allowed to put anything back in the park, but this is housing needed in Immokalee. So at least they’ll be able to move stuff in to replace the stuff already taken out.
Mr. Facundo says he is not speaking about the replacement; he’s addressing the issue of the flooding. That issue has never been resolved.

Pam Brown comments about the issues Mike’s talking about. With the original parks already there we’re finding out that there were no flood zones. With new buildings like the church of the Ladder Day Saints on S.R. 29 north and the bakery on 1st street having the same issues Immokalee and in other parts of Collier County. The school has to come in and take care of the problem and it hasn’t.

Annie Alvarez commented about how it is a serious problem with the flooding. Parks and Recreation had an agreement with the school board for the fields out there. This is a health hazard the kids are playing in the city water. We can’t even get in there to mow, the water sits in the ditches and retaining areas we can’t get to the areas to mow. It always happens in Immokalee, they fix this and forget to put this in and we get stuck with a disaster.

Dr. Nappo addresses to finish one piece at a time.

Danny Gonzalez asked are the mobile homes that are going to be put in the owners, are they going to have to limits? People were confused, are they going to need a/c’s in them? I think it was recommended that they have a/c and nice driveways, trash cans in the front. Some of these parks have dumpsters that are overflowing. Is it going to be a better living?

Michelle Arnold comments that it’s going over what the LDC can regulate, they can only regulate the use of the land.

Carrie Williams asked this is not just to do with trailer parks; I think people need to understand that. It’s about trailers next to houses that once the trailer, if they want to replace it, it will be there forever more? Correct?

Ms. Cilek responds with they will have a site plan for the trailer, yes you bring up a very good point.

Michelle Arnold asks a question to clarify, an individual single lot will have to do a site plan?

Ms. Cilek responds with, yes, those sites will be able to come through SIP process because many of them are non-conforming when it comes to the design standards.

Carrie Williams asks, that in areas like Eden Park where they’re houses and mobile homes if they come through the process and meet the criteria they can put that mobile home back?
Ms. Cilek clarifies a “replacement unit” meeting building code.

Carrie Williams states now if something happened and it got burned down, they wouldn’t be able to do that?

Ms. Cilek says “correct”.

Carrie Williams states how will the people who cannot afford to upgrade, going to upgrade? If it goes from its and illegal use and allow all this to happen and in 3 years nothing’s changed we can’t go back can we? We can’t put these stipulations back in place are they? Are we going to make it more stringent?

Ms. Cilek states that’s a good question for the county attorney’s office.

Carrie Williams states, she thinks we need to do something but sometimes she feels we’re jumping really far in the rabbit’s hole and it’s going to be hard to say wait this is not working.

Dr. Nappo asks Mr. Davenport if he has any concerns about the issues at hand.

Mr. Davenport, this plan does not give people a free ride. Issues are being brought from the LDC into trying to upgrade and that’s where the other addition failed. You’re going to see a big change might not be soon but you will see a change in these mobile home parks.

Mr. Facundo asks, is this a blanket zone? In other words, if someone has an existing house and someone puts a mobile home there is there an area where this is zoned?

Ms. Cilek refers to the Immokalee overlay district, to apply for this you need to currently be non-compliant means that only a nonconforming mobile home park or site located in the Immokalee Urban Boundary can apply for this process. Figure 1 below identifies the Immokalee Urban Boundary.
Michelle Arnold commented that it is pretty much all of Immokalee, it’s where a mobile home is permitted. It’s not going into Arrowhead.

Ms Halman asks, if the mobile home/park owner decides that they don’t want to do anything, Do they have to? Or can they just leave it.

Ms. Cilek responds with this is voluntary, but working with the park owners we feel this is a nice balance to have.

Ms. Arnold states, this is giving opportunity to those that want to do something. It’s not going to change for those that want to leave things as is.

**CRA Chair Dr. Frank Nappo requested that we move to Agenda item H.3.**

1.5. Immokalee Stormwater Master Plan – update

Ms. Michele Mosca informed the group that the Stormwater Planning staff spent the last month coordinating with several agencies including the Seminole Tribe of Florida. They have been working with the Tribe, looking at historical flows in an effort to defer the flows or have the reservation take on additional flows to potentially helping with flooding in the Weeks area.

The Stormwater Staff is also reaching out to the Immokalee Water & Sewer District to coordinate with them to consider making improvements in the areas that they will be impacting for their Pipe Replacement Project; they received some grant money. If this coordination effort is successful that will save some money for the project.

The Stormwater staff has been working with CRA staff to look at areas in Immokalee that flood on a regular basis. Once the areas are identified they will be included in the Immokalee Stormwater Master Plan update.

expect to be completed by the end of the summer.

Ms. Mosca also reported that staff members will continue to inventory the infrastructure in the community and Dr. Nappo asked if there are any updates on purchasing land for stormwater retention.

Michele Mosca noted that they continue to talk with property owners about potential pond sites. They are working with the family to move forward with the purchase the site previously mentioned in a prior meeting. They have also identified a property on Immokalee Drive and Carson Road and are also trying to locate additional areas throughout the community perhaps on the north side.

Ms. Mosca reminded the Advisory Board that Ms. Christie Betancourt spoke at the CWIP (Comprehensive Watershed Improvements Program) meeting in May 2016. The CWIP has a technical advisory Ad Hoc committee, established by the Board of County Commissioners, responsible for evaluating the entire watershed.
They are going to compile a list of recommendations that will be shared with the CRA advisory board and staff for comment and your input.

Ms. Mosca informed the group that the update of the Immokalee Stormwater Master Plan will be postponed a bit beyond the December time frame reported to them last month. The Stormwater staff will have one of their engineers come in and talk to the group sometime in September about the various concepts and provide a comprehensive overview on what they are proposing to put in the update.

Chief Paul Anderson requested the Stormwater staff check Fish Creek because it needs to be cleaned out. Michele Mosca advised that it was her understanding that it is in the original master plan. She mentioned that they could work with the property owners to get an easement.

Claudette Williams commented on flooding on Arden Avenue at the end of 5th Street and asked what the process is for working with the county to get the drainage fixed? Michele Mosca advised Ms. Williams that in order for the county to help with Arden Avenue an easement would have to be obtained and the street would have to be brought up to county code. There are a lot of issues in that area that would have to be addressed. It is not clear whether there is something the County could do on an interim basis for the maintenance.

Ms. Mosca said she wrote down the name of the street and will add it to the CRA’s list. She will continue to work with CRA staff to identify the areas that flood and the swales that are clogged. The CRA staff agreed to work with stormwater staff to provide a

**CRA Chair Dr. Frank Nappo requested that we move to Agenda item I.9.**

I.9. Other Agencies – Trinity Scott with Transportation Planning

Ms. Trinity Scott advised the group that they applied for a grant to make temporary curbing improvements on Lake Trafford Road. The grant was approved by the BCC at their last meeting. Ms. Scott informed the group that she has come up with a plan B just in case they don’t get the grant. She went back and crunched some numbers within her budget and is proposing to go ahead and start the design in house so it can save money. She proposes to get started on the design this fiscal year into next fiscal year so that the project can be shovel ready. If the grant is not received she does have funding in her budget in FY 2017-2018 to fund the construction of the temporary curbing and the addition of the shoulder.

Mr. Danny Gonzalez asked if there was a delay on New Market Road grant project.

Ms. Trinity Scott said that she emailed the project manager and hasn’t received and update on the project.

An update was given on the county budget for ongoing sidewalks in the area. She reported that the county-wide budget is $250,000 and 75% of that money has been allocated for the Immokalee area, the majority of it is for New Market Road
sidewalk to supplement the state funds so they have over $600,000 of sidewalk funding allocated for the Immokalee area. The County has made a substantial commitment to the Immokalee community with the sidewalk projects, the start of the design of Lake Trafford Road as well as the preparation of the $10 million Tiger Grant.

Ms. Christie Betancourt asked a question in regards to the flooding on New Market Road across from fortune cookie restaurant. County staff will look into that area.

**CRA Chair Dr. Frank Nappo requested that we move to Agenda item I.4.**

I.4. MSTU Project Manager Report
James Sainvilus said they have a quick update for the MSTU.

Cherryle Thomas reported that at 6:00 p.m. on December 1, 2016 they will be turning on 5,000 lights at the Immokalee First Street Zocalo Plaza. It will be a one hour event that Hopefully everyone will attend. The Christmas Parade and Gala will begin at 5:30 p.m. on December 10, 2016 starting at the Casino and ending at the parks and recreation area. We are hoping to have 200 plus entries. The theme is going to be Christmas Around the World is celebrating the “Big Apple of Broadway Musicals”.

James Sainvilus also reported that after Thanksgiving we will be changing the cornucopia banners to the Christmas banners. He also announced that the next MSTU meeting will be June 22, 2016 at 8:30 a.m. at the CRA office.

**CRA Chair Dr. Frank Nappo continued with agenda item H.3.**

3. FHERO – New Economic Development Organization (Florida’s Heartland Economic Region of Opportunity, Inc.)
CRA staff provided the board a brief update on the Florida Heartland Economic Region of Opportunity and reviewed Enclosure 4a through 4c. Pam Brown is glad that we finally have someone from Immokalee on this board.

I. CRA Old Business.

I.1. Advisory Board Members
No update was reported.

I.2. Pedestrian Safety Improvements – FDOT Grant – update
No new update was reported.

I.3. Adopt - A – Road Program – update
No update was reported.

I.6. CRA Operational Plan Workshop outcomes – (Enclosure 6)
Staff provided all with Enclosure 6 which is the plan from 2015 for review. Michelle Arnold advised the committee that she would like to conduct a board retreat to have the entire meeting focused on the board’s priorities for the CRA. She plans on working with Christie to schedule something in the next few months. We will get back focusing on our plan.

I.8. Code Enforcement – update
Joseph Mucha reported that the next Community Clean will be held on Saturday, June 25, 2016 at the CRA property on 9th and Main Street. The county is also doing a Tire Roundup on the same day from 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Ms. Andrea Halman reported that the end of Immokalee Drive is being used as a dump site. She asked what can be done to get it cleaned up? Joseph Mucha said he will look into it.

Mr. Estil Null reported that a lot of community members are leaving TV’s out in the front of their property and they are not getting picked up. He said that he knows that large items are supposed to be called in but if the garbage company sees the items out they should be able to pick them up.

Michelle Arnold recommended calling solid waste so they can take care of it.

Mr. Danny Gonzalez reported that code enforcement has done a great job on cleaning up New Market Road these last couple of weeks.

9. Other Agencies
Collier County Parks & Recreation – Annie Alvarez, Regional Manager for the Immokalee Area.

Annie Alvarez reported that they have the Summer Food Program that started yesterday at all the parks and some of the schools for kids 18 and under (or 21 and under with special needs) get free breakfast and lunch. They have about 100 kids in the Miracle program and about 200 kids in the Summer Camp program. 130 of the kids have been fully funded by the Naples Education Foundation. Ms. Alvarez also reported that Dreamland is about 90% complete with the playground fully complete. They have put some benches and trash cans at the park. Restrooms are not slated to be put in. They talked about putting a permanent portalet because we are building a soccer field at that site.

Dr. Nappo asked Ms. Alvarez if she had an update on the Immokalee Pier.

Ms. Claudette Williams expressed frustration with the progress of the park because she said it is the third time that the deadline has passed for Dreamland to be completed. Ms. Claudette gave a background on the history of Dreamland Park.

Dr. Nappo said that please keep in mind that Ms. Annie Alvarez is the messenger. This needs to be discussed and we need to figure this out.

Ms. Annie Alvarez reported that when they received the petition for Dreamland Park request she put it in the five year capital plan and it has been completed within four years. She clarified that the petition was a request to replace the playground and that is what they have provided. They County has taken the initiative to add a soccer/multipurpose field to allow the public, Little League and Popwarner the use of the field.
Ski Olesky serves on the Parks & Recreation board and provided a brief background on Dreamland Park. After much discussion staff will work with concerned citizens to address the concerns of Dreamland Park.

Annie Alvarez reported they have $350,000 to do repairs on the Immokalee Pier. The County is hoping to start on October 1st. We will invite Project Manager, Margaret Bishop to come out and talk to the CRA/MSTU in August.

Annie Alvarez reported that the Immokalee Fitness Center expansion has been approved. The project is at 60% design so it should be at 100% design within the next 4 weeks. Construction is set to start October 1st. They will be moving $250,000 of new equipment into the gymnasium at that time. They are also be looking to apply for some grant funding.

Jonas Marvelous said that he would like the Parks and recreation Division to have community involvement to identify community events that can be held for free.

Annie Alvarez advised that the Parks & Recreation Division has a fee structure approved by the Board of County Commissioners that they are required to follow.

J. Communications
1. Public Notices
2. Community Events
3. Articles
4. Promise Zone Narrative
   Staff reviewed the communications folder with board and members of the public. Staff also included handouts provided by Commissioner Nance and Marvin Courtright.

K. Citizen Comments:
Danny Gonzalez reported that the Immokalee Chamber of Commerce in collaboration with the Immokalee Civic Association to host a District 5 Candidates Forum at Itech on July 14, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. This is a community meeting so everyone is invited.

Pam Brown said that she would still like to get a television put in at the Library.

Michelle Arnold reported that Michael Sheffield is working on this request.

Maria Garcia Pizarro reported that the communications department is looking at a few locations and they are waiting for a response from the county attorney’s office on how they can implement this request.

Vanessa Bilema gave an update on the “How to Start a Food Business” session that was held right after the last join CRA/MSTU meeting. She wanted to report that she was able to give an Immokalee resident a scholarship to attend. They had about 30 people who attended.

Tamara Paquette said she works for the League of Women State Gun Safety committee. I respectfully request the CRA consider partnering with the league. The League would be sending a letter to the governor on Monday to demand a special session of the legislature because they would like them to reinstate the assault weapon ban that expired in 2005.
The deadline is 4:00 p.m. on Friday to get a yes or no. She offered sending the committee a letter for their consideration.

Dr. Nappo questioned how the request fits in the CRA’s purview and deferred to Commissioner Nance for advise. Commissioner Nance recommended against the CRA advisory committee engaging in issues beyond its purview.

CRA Chair Frank Nappo thanked Pete Salazar, owner of Salazar Machine and Steel for hosting the meeting and for providing breakfast along with Mr. Danny Gonzalez from Lozano’s.

Mr. Salazar thanked everyone for coming. He mentioned that it was very interesting to hear all that is going on in the community. He is from Immokalee and has been in business here almost 30 years. He said he started out of the back of his truck and to be where he is right now is a humble experience for him. He shared information about his company and how it has evolved over the years.

He said that they manufacture and design equipment for the Agriculture Industry. They do all kinds of machinery. Mr. Salazar showed the board a brief presentation on a system that is called the Lugger that they received a patent for in April of this year. He invited the attendees to take a tour of their facility.

L. **Next Meeting Date:** No meeting in July. Our next meeting will be August 24, 2016.
M. **Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 12:05 PM