



Environmental Protection and Growth Management Department
PLANNING AND REDEVELOPMENT DIVISION
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SUMMARY OF MINUTES
CENTRAL COUNTY COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
WEDNESDAY, January 30, 2013

URBAN LEAGUE OF BROWARD COUNTY
560 NW 27TH Avenue – 6:30 PM
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33311

Members Present:

- Ms. Deloris Jackson, Chair
- Ms. Alverine Brihm, Vice Chair
- Commissioner Dale V. C. Holness, Advisory Board Member (non-voting member)
- Ms. Tanya Freeman, Advisory Board Member
- Mr. Eligha Lewis III, Advisory Board Member
- Mr. Theotis Pressley, Advisory Board Member
- Reverend Lonnie B. Spry, Advisory Board Member

Members Excused or Absent:

- Mayor Kristin Jacobs, Advisory Board Member
- Vice Mayor Barbara Sharief, Advisory Board Member

County Staff:

- Mr. Henry Sniezek, Broward County Planning & Environmental Regulation Division
- Mr. Sheldon Riles, Broward County Planning & Environmental Regulation Division
- Mr. Albert E. Cummings, Broward County Planning & Environmental Regulation Division
- Mr. John E. Naclerio III, Office of the County Attorney

Mr. Hipolito Cruz, Jr., Broward County Permitting, Licensing & Consumer Protection Division
Ms. Daphnee Sainvil, Office of Intergovernmental Affairs and Professional Standard
Mr. Gerald Henry, Broward County Permitting, Licensing & Consumer Protection Division,
Community Code
Ms. Lahoma Scarlette, Director Community Affairs - *(Revised to add attendee)*

Guests:

Rev. Jesse Scipio, Boulevard Gardens
Ms. Julia Porter, Washington Park
Ms. Jacqueline C. Kelly, Boulevard Gardens
Mr. Jeff Parker, Fort Lauderdale
Mr. Randy Jesus, Unincorporated Broward County
Lieutenant Richard Pisanti, Broward County Sheriff's Office
Mr. James Carras, Carras Community Investment of Ft. Lauderdale
Mr. Larry Daise Binder, Tater Town
Mr. Milton L. Jones, City of Ft. Lauderdale, MJDC
Ms. Joan Johns, Boulevard Gardens

Upon having a quorum, Mr. Henry Sniezek welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the Central County Community Advisory Board. He introduced himself as the Director of the Planning & Environmental Regulation Division and staff liaison to the Board.

First order of business, Mr. Albert Cummings took roll call of the Board Members. Everyone was present at this time with the exception of Ms. Tanya Freeman who arrived 15 minutes later; 6:45pm.

Second order of business was the introduction of County Staff at which time all of County Staff present introduced themselves.

The Board was asked to introduce themselves and stated which neighborhood they represented.

Next the guests introduced themselves beginning with Joe Toliver, Vice President of the Urban League of Broward County.

ELECTION OF THE CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Mr. Sniezek announced the next order of business was the election of the Board's Chairperson and Vice Chairperson and the Board was asked to nominate one of each. Mr. Eligha Lewis, III was nominated and declined. Next, Ms. Deloris Jackson was nominated for Chairperson and seconded. The motion passed and Ms. Jackson was unanimously elected Chairperson. Ms. Alverine Brihm volunteered for Vice Chairperson. This motion was seconded, carried and Ms. Brihm was unanimously elected Vice Chairperson. Once this was done, Mr. Sniezek turned the meeting over to the Chair.

THE STAFF LIAISON REPORT

With permission from the Chair, Mr. Sniezek presented the staff liaison report to the Board. Firstly, Mr. Sniezek informed the Board that Mayor Jacobs and Vice-Mayor Sharief are also non-voting Members of the Board and forwarded their apologies for not being able to attend.

Secondly, Mr. Sniezek expressed hope that the members' handbook was found useful by everyone. He stated that if anyone had any comments about it, he or Mr. Riles would gladly make adjustments.

Mr. Sniezek introduced Daphnee Sainvil to the Board and let them know that if they had any questions about the attendance policy, they could be directed to Ms. Sainvil. Questions and answers followed between the Board and Ms. Sainvil as she proceeded to explain Ordinance 1-233, policies on attendance, regulations and sunshine rules which are in place as they pertain to the Board.

Mr. Sniezek thanked Mr. Toliver for hosting the first Board meeting and Lieutenant Pisanti for attending. He informed everyone that there are two slots on the Board which are in the process of being filled and should be resolved within a month or two. This will go to the County Commission for their formal approval and at the next meeting we should have a full Board. Due to the historic occasion of the Board's first meeting Mr. Sniezek asked if photographs can be taken of the Board and all others present. Permission for this was granted.

Mr. Naclerio then gave an overview of the County Attorney Report and elaborated on rules which apply to the Board Members as follows:

- The purpose and membership of the Board which is spelled out in Chapter 12 of Broward County Administrative Code
- Duties and responsibilities of the Board Members to the Commission and to the residents of the Central County Community within Unincorporated Broward.
- The 3 basic procedural requirements of the Sunshine Law based on Florida Statute which are:
 - a. Notice
 - b. Public Access

c. Written minutes

Any Board business should only be discussed at a Board Meeting and there are civil and criminal penalties if one does not comply with the Sunshine Law. Discussion of Board business encompasses E-mails, phone calls, texts or any kind of communication.

- Ethics regulations which are in section 2670 of the Broward County Code of Ordinances pertaining to lobbying and gifting.

Next, Mr. Naclerio elaborated on Tab 5 and Tab 6 in the Board Members Handbook in which Resolutions No. 2012-512 and No. 2012-793 with decision charts are there to help explain the Law.

Questions and Answers regarding gifts and lobbying followed.

Mr. Sniezek brought up item #6 in which staff asks for consideration and approval of the Board's By-Laws.

Mr. Naclerio pointed out that if the Board chooses to approve the By-Laws tonight, they could be amended at any other meeting. A motion to approve the By-Laws as they are was made and seconded. All but one Board Member voted in favor of the motion. The Chair stated let the record show that the By-Laws were approved 5-1.

The next item was to request the Board to accept at least the next three (3) quarterly meetings at the Urban League location on:

Wednesday, April 17, 2013 – 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, July 31, 2013 – 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, October 30, 2013 – 6:30 p.m.

Ms. Freeman informed everyone that due to her employment, she would experience difficulty arriving on time to future meetings which begin at 6:30 p.m. She stated she would either be absent or tardy to each meeting she attended beginning at these times.

Mr. Sniezek suggested to the Chair that if the Board can approve April 17 as the next meeting date, we can work with the Board Members individually to agree upon acceptable future meeting dates and present them at the next Board Meeting.

The Chair then asked for a motion to accept April 17th as the next Board Members meeting date. The motion was made, seconded and unanimously accepted.

The last item on the Agenda is a review of the Central County Community Work Plan which is based on the Redevelopment Plan adopted last October. The Work Plan was presented using PowerPoint in three parts by Mr. Sniezek, Mr. Riles and Mr. Henry.

Mr. Riles gave a status report on the on-going capital improvements in Central County.

- Commissioner Holness asked if they could be given a little history regarding the evolution of the design and acceptance of the bus shelters. Mr. Riles pointed out that the Broward County Transit Division would be the most appropriate source for this kind of information as they are the ones who select, design and install the bus shelters. However, Mr. Riles offered to gather this information for the Board and bring it to the next Board Meeting.
- Mr. Lewis commented that there should be a comprehensive plan throughout Central County Community regarding capital improvements including covered bus shelters. He suggested that the necessary Governmental Departments work together internally on this matter toward the betterment of all Central County Community.
- Mr. Sniezek stated he would contact Mr. Walton of the Transportation Department to find out if there are more immediate plans in this area for Central County.

Mr. Sniezek presented the status of the Central County Redevelopment Plan adopted last October to improve the Community in multiple aspects.

- A community member asked for a map of the unincorporated area of Broward County and was given one by Mr. Sniezek.
- A community member asked for clarification of the redevelopment plan referred to in Mr. Sniezek's presentation.
- Mr. Sniezek responded explaining that the CRA Plan had been updated in the early 2000's and in order to accommodate the consolidation of the four neighborhoods into the Central County Concept, it was updated again last October. A copy of this plan was offered to the community member by both Mr. Sniezek and Commissioner Holness.
- Mr. Jesus also asked for a copy of the plan and was told he would get one. He also had a copy of a 1986 CRA Plan and expounded on the many positive aspects of it. He stated that FAU will put together a CRA workshop in April and invited the Advisory Board to attend this event.

Mr. Henry gave an overview of the concept that the County Staff is working on for the rental registration program.

- One community member asked about the FPL's removing of trees from residential properties and creating unsafe conditions for the residence. Mr. Henry responded saying that when they do this, they cut the trees according to Federal Standards. He also explained the various kinds of

exemptions which exist when trees are being cut. Mr. Henry also stated that creating unsafe conditions, however; is something his Division can address locally.

- A community member asked if the County will be controlling this program. Mr. Henry responded saying the County Community Code Compliance Team will be the agency handling this program.
- A community member asked, regarding owners with four or less units, if there will there be a stipulation in the future about the number of such properties in a neighborhood. Mr. Henry explained that because properties with five or more units are inspected by the State, locally we would be responsible for inspecting properties with four units or less. However, this has no bearing on the limitation regarding property owners acquiring property or a number of units.
- A community member asked about the annual renewal of certification. Mr. Henry answered that right now we are looking at that because it is going to be a self-certification program.
- A community member asked about single family homes. Mr. Henry explained that a single family home would not be involved in this program.
- Mr. Jesus commented on the need for a “needs assessment” program to help those residents with special needs. Mr. Henry responded by referring to the agencies already in place which provide assistance for such residence, and that when looked into, there is usually a social worker assigned by that agency to help.
- A community member informed everyone that a call to 211 would provide the caller with a great deal of information as far as where to get what is needed.
- A community member asked for some clarity on property inspections for section 8 homes. Mr. Henry explained that his program would respond to complaints, regardless of owner and perform proactive inspections inside units on properties that were not already being handled by a State agency such as section 8.
- Mr. Cruz reiterated Mr. Sniezek’s earlier statement which is that tonight we are looking for the Board’s support to move forward with a draft ordinance which was also presented by Mr. Henry.
- A community member commented positively on the creation of the Board and felt sure they would get back to the Home Owners Associations to address some of the issues therein.
- The Chair asked for a motion to support a draft ordinance. Mr. Lewis, III moved to approve the rental property maintenance inspection and registration program. The motion was seconded.
- Mr. Naclerio interjected a suggestion stating that the Board make a recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners to direct the County Attorney’s Office to prepare an ordinance because the County Attorney’s Office has not yet been directed by the Board of County Commissioners to do so.

- This motion was then unanimously carried.
- Mr. Lewis, III expressed concerns regarding enriching the lives of the residence and redeveloping the community and called for staff to present this Board with the actual plan for the redevelopment and revitalization of Central County. He cited areas within the community he wished to see improved changes made such as Sunrise Blvd., 31st Avenue, 27th Avenue, housing and bus stops and the entire gateway to the community. Mr. Lewis, III also expressed the need for dependable funding to procure real results.
- Reverend Spry stated specific interest in seeing improvements along Broward Blvd. and the revitalization of the existing businesses along there.
- Mr. Sniezek thanked the Board for their comments.
- Mr. Jesus commented on the need for particular blocks and buildings within Central County to be addressed in terms of increasing the depth of commercial and doing away with strip zoning. He spoke of a former Coordinator for Broward County who got a lot of programs approved. He pointed out that many of the problems that existed many years ago still exist today. Mr. Jesus also pointed out that Boulevard Gardens had a lot of presentations from FAU where architectural students and planning students worked hard to come up with a master plan with connectivity, sustainability and smart growth. These plans were done without residence displacement and upgraded the community. He pointed out the need for funding to get such things implemented.
- Mr. Pressley stated that most of the Board is made up neighborhood Presidents and as such, are aware of the needs within these communities. Through this he suggested an agenda be created addressing these needs.
- Mr. Lewis, III responded stating we are all stakeholders and what he is looking for is to see our policy makers start implementing things for the community. He suggested that policy makers ride through the community and see for themselves what the community needs because they are our local officials and not just one Commissioner. He expressed doubt that the reports which staff makes on a month to month basis go beyond the Director's desk. Mr. Lewis, III wanted to know why we are not mentioned there on a weekly basis talking about the progress of these particular projects. He feels this is what needs to start happening now and to make the policy makers more accountable for our community.
- Commissioner Holness extended thanks to Mr. Toliver for allowing the Urban League to host our meeting. He also thanked all the participants and staff for being here. The Commissioner spoke of the slow but steady pace of progress created through local government. He pointed out that in his two years as Commissioner for District 9, he has seen progress and this meeting is one indication of that. He mentioned that in a meeting earlier with staff, it was agreed that they

wanted to know the wants and needs of the community as stated by this Board. The Commissioner encouraged the Board to look through the Board Member's Handbook and pay particular attention to Tab #7 which speaks about the Central County Community Redevelopment Plan. He welcomed comments and ideas from the Board as to what else needs to be done going forward. The Commissioner also stated that this meeting is a great start for us to leave here with the staff having elected officials on the Board. He mentioned that he has always been available for dialogue with those who now share this Board with him regarding their communities, however; the disadvantage of being on the same Board prohibits speaking of matters which come before it when the Board is not in session. He pointed out that he has done his best to impress on staff and on the rest of the County Commissioners when the opportunity arises, the need for us to work, reinvest and put more funds into helping improve Central County Community.

The Commissioner mentioned there is about \$5,000,000.00 that we will be receiving in the next 3 years to put towards doing some improvements and to address some of the issues that we face. The Commissioner then stated some of the things that he will be discussing with this money and asked for the Board's input as to whether or not it should be used for these purposes.

- a. Home Improvements – Especially for seniors and those who are indigent
- b. Business Development – To create jobs, helping businesses grow and develop and assist them in obtaining business grants, and tax attorneys to help guide them.
- c. Sod Improvement where we could probably do a match. Establish designs and the look and feel we which to have in these areas.
- d. Greenways and entry ways improvements on Sunrise Blvd. and 27th Avenue.

The Commissioner also said we need to move on these so we can see some results as soon as possible.

- Mr. Jesus again elaborated on a 1986 CRA Plan which he brought with him. He read a portion of it to illustrate progress made in the past which we could emulate in the plan we present for adoption. He spoke of the need for strategic planning as well.
- A community member asked about the status of a wish list that would determine what projects will be funded based on the Advisory Board. Mr. Sniezek mentioned that's what we're starting here tonight.
- Mr. Lewis, III pointed out we should start focusing on redevelopment and revitalization as opposed to a wish list. This is what the County has been focused on since 1996.

- The community member also asked who determines the CCCAB Agenda. Mr. Sniezek explained that staff will work with the Chair and the Board to establish the Agenda. The first one was done by Staff.
- Mr. Pressley asked the Chair if the Board can have business cards created for contact purposes and this idea was viewed favorably.
- In closing, Mr. Sniezek, referring to the \$5,000,000.00 Commissioner spoke of earlier, mentioned that it is spread out over 3years and is geared towards job creation and economic development, so we need input from this Board about what to move forward on. We will move forward on the input received at this meeting and he assured the Board that staff will be in contact with them individually, not as a group, to develop and bring back an Agenda.

ADJOURN

Meeting was adjourned at 8:40PM.

The next meeting was scheduled for April 17, 2013.