



Environmental Protection and Growth Management Department

PLANNING AND REDEVELOPMENT DIVISION

115 S. Andrews Avenue, Room 329K • Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301 • 954-357-6634 • FAX 954-357-8655

MINUTES

CENTRAL COUNTY COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD

Wednesday, August 20, 2014 - 6:00pm

Roosevelt Gardens Park Community Center

2841 NW 11th Street

Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33311

Board Members Present:

Alverine Brihm, Chairperson
Julia Porter, Vice Chairperson (arrived 6:25pm)
Tanya Freeman
Eligha Lewis III (arrived 7:30pm)
Theotis Pressley
Reverend Jesse Scipio

Board Members Excused or Absent:

Mr. Robert Miller

County Staff:

Dale V. Holness, Broward County Commissioner
Lahoma Scarlette, Broward County Commission District 9
Elaine Barnett, Broward County Solid Waste & Recycling Services
Heather Cunniff, Broward County Planning & Redevelopment Division
Maribel Feliciano, Broward County Planning & Redevelopment Division
Gerald Henry, Broward County Planning & Redevelopment Division
Brenda McCrone, Broward County Solid Waste & Recycling Services
Sandy-Michael McDonald, Broward County Office of Economic & Small Business Development
John E. Naclerio III, Office of the County Attorney
Sheldon Riles, Broward County Planning & Redevelopment Division
Henry Sniezek, Broward County Planning & Redevelopment Division
Steve Tinsley, Broward County Office of Economic & Small Business Development

Guests:

Marieline Benjamin, Serving Hearts Abroad
Romona L. Benjamin, Serving Hearts Abroad
Connie Moss, Black Motivated Women/Men
Richard Pisanti, Broward Sheriff's Office

Alverine Brihm called the meeting to order and requested roll call. Ms. Brihm expressed her desire to maintain an orderly meeting and requested each speaker be recognized by the Chair before commenting or asking questions.

1. Approval of Minutes of June 18, 2014 Meeting

A motion was made to approve the June 18, 2014 minutes by Reverend Jesse Scipio, seconded by Julia Porter, and unanimously approved.

2. Trash and Debris in Swale (Solid Waste and Recycling Services)

Brenda McCrone gave a brief overview of the kinds of services provided by the Broward County Solid Waste and Recycling Services (SWRS) Division. Bulk waste is collected monthly, but may also be taken to the residential drop off center located on Reese Road up to four times a month. A fee is not charged if proof of residency is provided. The Solid Waste and Recycling Division also coordinates with civic and homeowners associations to hold community clean up events during which bulk waste is collected. Mini-cleanups, which are held based on the observation of SWRS staff, are another means by which bulk waste is removed. Residents or property owners also may take their bulk waste to the landfill near Sheridan and 27th Avenue for fee of \$2.00 for cars and trucks. Large trucks are subject to a higher fee. Residents and property owners may contract with a private company, such as Franchise Haul, to remove bulk waste. Ms. McCrone asked that the Central County Community Advisory Board members share information about Broward County's solid waste and recycling services with new members in the community. The Solid Waste and Recycling Services website is a good resource for information:

<http://www.broward.org/WasteAndRecycling/Pages/Default.aspx>.

Ms. McCrone concluded her presentation by noting a welcome package that provides details about solid waste and recycling services programs is available for new residents. Reverend Scipio noted he requested Solid Waste and Recycling Services to come to the meeting to address trash collection issues in Boulevard Gardens. Garbage cans are sometimes turned upside down. Some streets are not provided with collection service on recycling days. Ms. McCrone stated the agency is aware of the issue and steps are being taken to correct the problems.

Reverend Scipio mentioned that residents placed a trash can on the swale to deter littering. The trash can is filled, but hasn't been picked up. Reverend Scipio also mentioned that bulk waste is sometimes placed on the swales, but not picked up for an entire month. Ms. McCrone stated that this issue is presently being addressed. Reverend Scipio further mentioned that sofas and other furniture are often placed on the swales illegally. Ms. McCrone stated that collection service is not provided to vacant lots. However, they will work with the appropriate agency to address the problem.

Reverend Scipio mentioned that some commercial lawn vendors bring debris from various jobs and leave it on the swales for bulk day. He stated that it is unfair for property tax payers to have this debris left on the swales in front their homes. This is usually done a week before

bulk waste pickup. Ms. McCrone stated that illegal dumping must be witnessed. However, she will take this information to county administrators. Theotis Pressley suggested community members could be provided with door hangers that advise residents of the rules; the door hanger would include a portion to tear off and send to county staff.

3. Abandoned Properties and Code Violations: (Code & Zoning Enforcement Section)

Gerald Henry gave a PowerPoint presentation about code requirements for abandoned properties and described code enforcement operations. Several kinds of code violations were illustrated and the processing of violations was explained. Issues related to abandoned buildings, such as occupancy, squatting, safety, liability, aesthetics and neighbor responsibilities was discussed. It was noted that Broward County adopted an ordinance related to building maintenance that addresses building colors, doors, and windows in 1999. At that time, the Code Enforcement Section became responsible for occupied properties and the Building Section became responsible for unoccupied properties. In 2013, the code of ordinances was amended to allow the Code Enforcement Section to address unoccupied properties.

Mr. Henry noted that the time frame for addressing an overgrown property violation has always been an issue. The zoning code states that service must be made pursuant to the requirements of Chapter 162, Florida Statutes. Chapter 162 provides that the violation notice be sent by certified mail and the property owner sign and return the notice within 30 days. If 30 days pass without signature, the property is posted. The County Attorney's Office recently determined a 10-day posting is sufficient to meet proper notice requirements.

In 2009, Broward County adopted the Abandoned and Vacant Real Property Registration and Inspection Program to require more property maintenance accountability and responsibility from mortgage holders and banks. Mr. Pressley suggested the time frame required to correct violations be cut by half. Mr. Pressley further suggested the Code Enforcement Officers write the violations and allow administrative staff to process the paper work so more time can be spent in the field. Mr. Henry pointed out that the Code Enforcement Officers use tablets and laptops to immediately input the violation and office time is not required for this purpose. He mentioned there are three full-time office support staff.

Mr. Henry stated that according to the statute, Code Enforcement staff must provide a reasonable time for compliance. Reasonable time can range from no time to a maximum of 30 days, depending on the violation. The Broward County code provides for a five (5) day compliance period for violations that occur on the swale and ten days for violations that occur on private property. Ms. Brihm suggested more Code Officers be hired if there is not a budget problem. She also suggested there should be more concentration on occupied houses that mar the aesthetic value of the community, since there are buildings that have been unoccupied for years without change. Ms. Brihm asked if are banks are being charged for foreclosed houses that are being neglected. Mr. Henry pointed out that the purpose of the real property registration and inspection program is to get compliance from the property owners. Many properties owned by banks are the problem properties.

Ms. Brihm suggested a workshop between the Central County Community Advisory Board, Code Enforcement and Zoning be created to review and revise the ordinance. This was agreed to by Mr. Henry.

4. Planning and Redevelopment Staff Activities

Maribel Feliciano presented the process Broward County will use to update its comprehensive plan, an initiative that will begin in the next few weeks. The process includes updating two important policy documents that provide the framework for the development and redevelopment of Broward County. Reverend Scipio suggested having a workshop separate from the regular quarterly meetings. Questions and answers followed concerning funding and the budget process. Ms. Feliciano suggested inviting county budget staff to explain the budgeting process. Mr. Lewis mentioned that outside consultants are usually used to create a comprehensive plan and make recommendations. Mr. Sniezek agreed with Mr. Lewis that expert assistance is needed for this initiative, however, community input also is necessary. Commissioner Holness pointed out that the comprehensive plan update is a county-wide initiative that includes Unincorporated Broward County. Commissioners Holness noted the budget constraints in terms of hiring outside consultants.

Mr. Lewis asked if an update of the Broward County Comprehensive Plan is required. Mr. Sniezek answered the update is not legally required. Ms. Feliciano explained that Unincorporated Broward has always been a part of the Broward County Comprehensive Plan and staff is currently doing a major update of the Broward County Comprehensive Plan. The comprehensive plan is being streamlined and will include policies that are implementable and cost feasible.

Mr. Pressley announced he has resigned from the Central County Community Advisory Board, effective October.

Mr. Lewis suggested providing a home refrigerator magnet with bulk trash pickup dates. He also suggested that back-up material be provided for all the agenda items.

Adjourn

The motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The meeting was then adjourned.

Disclosure: The above captioned Minutes are transcribed in a summary format. To hear the full meeting, a compact disk of the meeting, (Audio file #14-SC-46), can be provided after a 24 hour notice to the Document Control and Minutes Section at 954-357-7297.