



Environmental Protection and Growth Management Department
PLANNING AND REDEVELOPMENT DIVISION
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MINUTES

CENTRAL COUNTY COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

February 18, 2015 - 6:00 PM

Roosevelt Gardens Community Center

2841 N.W. 11th Street

Fort Lauderdale, FL 33311

Board Members Present:

Alverine Brihm, Chair
Julia Porter, Vice Chair
Lisa Curry
Marquis Curry
Tanya Freeman
Eligha Lewis III
Reverend Jesse Scipio

Board Members Excused or Absent:

Robert Miller (absent)

County Staff:

Heather Cunniff, Broward County Planning and Redevelopment Division
Maribel Feliciano, Broward County Planning and Redevelopment Division
Commissioner Dale V. Holness, Broward County Commission
Alphonso Jefferson, Jr. Broward County Administration
Sheldon Riles, Broward County Planning and Redevelopment Division
Jeffrey Smith, Broward County Office of Economic and Small Business Development
Sandy Michael McDonald, Broward County Office of Economic and Small Business Development
Steve Tinsley, Broward County Office of Economic and Small Business Development
Anh Ton, Highway and Bridge Maintenance Division
Jerry Williams, Highway and Bridge Maintenance Division
Diana Eckendahl, Highway and Bridge Maintenance Division
Desir Patricia, Highway and Bridge Maintenance Division
Gregory Holness – Broward Sheriff's Office Fire Rescue
Elaine Barrett, Solid Waste and Recycling

Guests:

Pastor Louis Hall – Resident
T. Edwards – Franklin Park Resident
Damon Stinson, Waste Pro

Mrs. Alverine Brihm (Chair) called the meeting to order and requested Heather Cunniff to conduct roll call. Robert Miller was the only absent member. Mrs. Brihm asked that each speaker be recognized by the Chair before commenting or asking questions to ensure having an orderly meeting, and also asked that the agenda be followed.

1. Approval of Minutes of August 20th, 2014 Meeting

Motion: Reverend Scipio moved to approve the minutes as written. This motion was seconded by Tanya Freeman and passed by a 7 to 1 voice vote. Mr. Lewis voted against the motion.

2. Approval of Minutes of November 19, 2014 Meeting

Ms. Brihm asked if there were any comments or corrections. Mr. Lewis requested the minutes be changed to reflect that he stated the Central County Community Advisory Board (Board) members are not experts and an expert opinion about what needs to be completed in the community is required. The Chair instructed the minutes be corrected. Ms. Feliciano clarified that Mr. Lewis wanted his comments to be a part of the workshop minutes and that they could be included under the other “Other Items” section. Ms. Brihm asked for a motion to add the correction to “Other Items” in the minutes.

Motion: Mr. Marquis Curry moved to approve the motion as stated. This motion was seconded by Reverend Scipio and passed by a unanimous voice vote.

3. Summary of the Board’s Workshop – Maribel Feliciano, Planning Administrator

Ms. Feliciano presented the recommendations from November 19, 2014 workshop. She described the brainstorming process used to develop the recommendations and referred to

the summary report provided. The Board identified a list of community projects or services needed under each one of the topic areas below. They also prioritized the topics as follows:

1. Crime and Law Enforcement
2. Social and Public Services
3. Affordable Housing
4. Street Enhancement
5. Code Enforcement
6. Economic Development
7. Existing Land Uses and Zoning

Ms. Feliciano mentioned that the Board Members were asked to share the list with their homeowner association members to obtain additional feedback. The County established an internal committee to work on projects within the Broward Municipal Services District. As resources and funding opportunities are identified, the internal committee will work to address these priorities. The Board will be advised as projects move forward.

Mr. Lewis pointed out that the focus on law enforcement should be on-going. In seven years, many of the children will be adults and in the criminal system. A lot of time is spent talking about crime and law enforcement, but this can be worked on without putting it in the comprehensive plan. It was noted that Alphonso Jefferson meets monthly with law enforcement and fire rescue staff to discuss activities within the Broward Municipal Services District. He gave a brief overview of what is discussed at the meetings and emphasized that law enforcement has to be a part of the comprehensive plan because making the community safer is necessary for other improvements to occur and be maintained. At the monthly meeting, different approaches are examined to enhance the community as part of an overall plan to implement improvements. He assured the members that during these monthly meetings, the particular concerns brought up in the Board meetings are heard and considered.

Unsavoury activities on NW 13th Street were discussed. The visibility of crime, drug activities and its impact on the children who traverse the area daily was noted. The BSO is aware of the criminal activities, as well as activity behind the high school, and are conducting surveillance.

Mr. Lewis stated in order to make an actual change, the Board needs to sit with policymakers who make the decisions as opposed to County staff. Reverend Jesse Scipio agreed with Mr. Lewis in terms of the amount of time gone by without seeing significant changes.

The Chair called for Item 4 of the Agenda. Ms. Feliciano asked if Item #5 can be discussed before Item #4 and Ms. Brihm agreed.

4. Sunrise Median Beautification Project – Anh Ton, Highway & Bridge Maintenance Director

Anh Ton introduced himself and gave a brief overview of the Sunrise Median Beautification Project, located on Sunrise Boulevard, between NW 24th Avenue and NW 31st Avenue. The roadway section belongs to the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and the project must go through an FDOT process. Commissioner Holness championed the project and helped secure funds through County Administration. Mr. Ton stated that beautification is being accomplished through landscaping and irrigation in the median of Sunrise Boulevard. Costs are about \$192,000.00. Broward County and FDOT will maintain the project in perpetuity. Design is complete and the FDOT is expected to grant approval by May of 2015. Immediately following approval, installation of irrigation and then landscaping will commence. Construction is expected to take no more than six months, depending upon the expediency of required FDOT inspections at various stages of construction.

Mr. Ton discussed and illustrated the landscaping details and opened the floor to questions. Mr. Lewis stated that the presentation did not provide a good visual of how the street will look. He asked if Broward County will maintain those improvements and was told yes. Mr. Lewis asked how this design will affect the future incoming light rail. Mr. Ton said the light rail system is a long term plan of FDOT that is preliminary and not funded. It's difficult to determine how the project will be impacted without knowing FDOT's detailed design plans. Mr. Lewis asked which structures along Sunrise Boulevard will be enhanced. The internal team will discuss this topic, as well as how to spruce up businesses along the route.

Ms. Porter asked when the project began. Mr. Ton responded that consultants were hired and talks with FDOT began about a year and a half ago. The Broward County Board of County Commissioners approved a landscaping maintenance agreement with FDOT within the past couple of weeks. Ms. Porter asked if this was part of the municipal services district budget for Central County. She was told it was included in a separate budget.

Reverend Scipio asked if the project design includes lighting. Mr. Ton said lighting is not included in the project. Ms. Feliciano stated the Internal Team will be examining street lighting and developing a plan to address the needs throughout all the neighborhoods.

Mr. Ton added FDOT just sent notice of a project on Sunrise Boulevard heading westbound to add a southbound turn lane. The turn lane is unrelated to this project. Construction is planned in February or March of this year.

5. Overview of Current Projects – Alphonso Jefferson, Jr., Assistant to the County Administrator

Alphonso Jefferson, Jr. explained the activities of the Internal Team. The Internal Team strategizes on the implementation of potential projects in a particular area. The examination of towing regulations for junk/derelict vehicles on public and private property was cited as an example. Overall, a more aggressive approach is being taken to handle the community's issues. Mr. Jefferson stated a conceptual design of NW 27th Avenue will be brought to the Board for feedback. Comments from the business community has already been received.

Mr. Jefferson announced a new entrance is planned for Delevoe Park from NW 27th Avenue. The project is being done in phases and construction has started. The first phase deals with the parking lot. The second phase is the expansion of the park.

Reverend Scipio asked about the Boys and Girls Club. Mr. Jefferson mentioned a needs assessment is being done to determine if the club can be moved to a new location without impacting its membership.

Ms. Brihm asked about the plans for the Tater Town. Mr. Jefferson stated the site is being examined, but final plans have not been developed. The ULI Report recommended looking at land use and zoning designations, so that some commercial areas can be built up. The acquisition of Tater Town is the starting place, but it must be first approved by the Board of County Commissioners.

Mr. Jefferson said he is working with BSO and Fire Rescue in terms of community presence and learning about the precise issues facing the community. The Board was urged to bring issues to him or staff and he will address the issues at the Internal Team meetings. He will also try to schedule one-on-one meetings with the Board members.

Mr. Jefferson opened the floor for questions. An update on the bid for the Lafayette Park Modular building was requested. Ms. Feliciano responded that they are working on finalizing the procurement and she will get an update from the Parks and Recreation Division. An inquiry was made about the use of local contractors. Sandy-Michael McDonald mentioned the County has a program being used for this project to require and encourage contracting with small businesses that are certified with the County. Mr. Jefferson mentioned the contractor that is hired will be encouraged to use local businesses. Mr. Jefferson replied that community resources are being put in place in a sustainable manner. The Internal Team includes a grant administrator who looks for grants for this community.

Mr. Lewis stated he does not see a block by block strategic plan and that the biggest problem is blight. Mr. Jefferson spoke about the positive potential of Central County and how the plan in place covers major roadways, the commercial components, and affordable housing.

6. Economic Development Strategy Update and Urban Land Institute Technical Assistance Panel Draft Report – Steve Tinsley, Economic & Small Business Development Manager

Steve Tinsley gave a brief update on the timeline of the strategy and the Urban Land Institute (ULI) Report. Recommendations have been reviewed by County agencies. A draft report has been distributed to the County Administrator and the Board of County Commissioners. They

are currently compiling agency feedback, which will be provided to the ULI for inclusion in the final report. This is expected to be done by April, at which time, the ULI will be invited to present the final report.

Mr. Tinsley noted the strategy document addresses façade improvement, development, redevelopment, and demolition grants, as well as land assembly and revolving loan programs. The programs are designed to be flexible.

Mr. Tinsley stated the County Commission will be provided with the various program details at their March 3rd workshop. His office spoke with over 25 businesses about the programs being proposed to obtain an idea of which businesses are interested and the logistics of getting businesses enrolled.

With the Board's support, investments in the community through these programs should begin as early as this summer. Broward County will work with a consulting group to establish design standards along the commercial corridors. Zoning and code enforcement, as well as smaller business and real estate development groups, will be included in the process. Through the work with commercial realtors and small groups of business owners, impediments to business expansion and growth will be identified. Mr. Tinsley welcomed questions and comments.

Mr. Lewis pointed out that NW 31st Avenue was omitted from the plan. Mr. Tinsley said he will take a look at that and gather input from all sources and get back to the Advisory Board.

Reverend Scipio asked about the MPO's announcement that they would not fund the project on NW 27th Avenue and inquired about additional funding for this project. Ms. Feliciano pointed out that the MPO dollars are from a federal grant that can only be used for transportation projects and the County was not successful on that grant application. She explained the project is moving forward and additional funding sources will continue to be identified in coordination with the Budget Office.

7. Recycling Reward Program – Elaine D. Barrett, Solid Waste and Recycling Services Field Supervisor

Elaine Barrett presented Damon Stinson from Waste Pro to speak about the Recycling Rewards Program. Mr. Stinson stated this program rewards residents for recycling. A reader on the truck identifies homes and addresses and records whether the household recycled. If residents recycle every collection day, points are awarded and they become eligible for discounts and coupons. A quarterly drawing also awards prizes. The program is available online and a smart phone app is available for residents to track their points. Coupons and rewards may also be downloaded. Mr. Stinson opened the floor to questions and comments.

A question was asked whether residents have to recycle on every recycling day to be eligible. Mr. Stinson said residents don't have to recycle on every recycling day, but the more recycling, the more points received, and the greater the rewards. There are three tiers. Tier 1 is for recycling once or twice a month. Tier 2 is for those who recycle 3 times a month. Tier 3 is for those who recycle every recycling day in a quarter-year. Tier 3 makes residents eligible for all the rewards, coupons and discounts, plus they are entered into the drawing.

8. Law Enforcement Update – Lieutenant Richard Pisanti, Broward Sheriff's Office

Lieutenant Richard Pisanti stated the Central County area, which is comprised of four zones that BSO patrols, has had an 8 percent reduction in crime in the year 2014 compared to 2013.

Crime reductions include:

- Murders: 100%
- Armed robberies: 27%
- Home burglaries 27%

The BSO is working on trying to reduce the vehicle crashes by stationing officers in the areas where the most crashes occur.

In the last four weeks, BSO did a prostitution sting on the NW 27th Avenue corridor and arrested 11 people. A plan is in place for the next 4 weeks. Two narcotic stings and two search warrants were executed at two locations. Lieutenant Pisanti mentioned that BSO is keeping

these projects in effect as long as possible and used the work being done on the NW 1st Street corridor as an example. The purpose of the NW 1st Street project is to reduce loitering, thefts, and other crimes. The work has had a positive effect, but continuation is needed to maintain effectiveness. The BSO plan to continue the project as long as possible. The NW 27th Avenue corridor, NW 7th Street, and NW 8th Street are places where drug dealing was decreased to zero occurrences, but continuation of the project with daily activity is necessary to maintain the crime reduction. Lieutenant Pisanti opened the floor to questions or comments.

A comment was made that there's still a lot of criminal activity. Lieutenant Pisanti said his plan is to keep additional police in that area for at least two and a half months and continue to make arrests. The problem of loud music was mentioned. Lieutenant Pisanti explained how BSO handles loud music, including negotiating with residents to keep their music down after a certain time or threatening to impound their music equipment.

Mr. Lewis mentioned that BSO could be more proactive during the holidays. Lt. Pisanti said a plan is in place for every holiday to combat crimes in the community. Lt. Pisanti mentioned he gets a lot of calls about riders of all-terrain vehicles and has a plan in place to track the ownership of these vehicles, many of which are stolen.

9. Fire Rescue Update – District Chief Gregory Holness

Gregory Holness pointed out that a colder week is approaching and advised that old portable heaters should be discarded because they are a fire hazard. Chief Holness suggested using ceramic heaters, available at Lowes or Home Depot, since they are inexpensive and much safer. Unfortunately, he can predict a spike in residential fire-related calls in the cooler months.

Chief Holness discussed the different kinds of fires that have recently occurred in Central County which are now under investigation. The fires are trending about 90 percent greater the number of calls from last year. There have been 205 calls in Central County and 74 in the Broadview area.

Chief Holness announced that on March 7th, BSO is having a “Get to Know Uniting Broward” festival in Markham Park. All the districts will be represented, as well as regional services. The event will be fun and the only charge is the County’s Park entrance fee of \$1.50 and food. All of the resources and activities of BSO will be displayed. He urged people to attend and look at the available programs to see if there’s a program they would like to see initiated in Central County. Chief Holness emphasized the importance of open dialogue among the Districts and pointed out that he and many community members attend this forum not because they are directed to attend, but because they want to make a difference. The Board did not have any questions for Chief Holness.

It was announced the next Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 20, 2015 and the meeting 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 #15-SC-15), can be provided after a 24 hour notice to the Document Control and Minutes Section at 954-357-7297.