



Environmental Protection and Growth Management Department

PLANNING AND REDEVELOPMENT DIVISION

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MINUTES

CENTRAL COUNTY COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

May 20, 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 (Via Conference Call)

Lisa Curry (Arrived 6:20pm)

Marquis Curry

Eligha Lewis III

Reverend Jesse Scipio

Board Member Excused:

Tanya Freeman

Commissioner Dale Holness, Broward County Board of County Commissioners

County Staff:

Alphonso Jefferson, County Administration

Jo Sesodia, Planning and Redevelopment Division

Maribel Feliciano, Planning and Redevelopment Division

Heather Cunniff, Planning and Redevelopment Division

Ralph Stone, Housing Finance and Community Development Division

Yvette Lopez, Housing Finance and Community Development Division

Sheldon Riles, Housing Finance and Community Development Division

Pat Stephenson, Housing Finance and Community Development Division

Sandy Michael McDonald, Office of Economic and Small Business Development

Steve Tinsley, Office of Economic and Small Business Development

Guests:

T. Edwards, Franklin Park Resident

Edward Grana, Access Builders

Gregory Holness, Broward Sheriff's Office Fire Rescue Fire

Lt. Richard Pisanti, Broward Sheriff's Office

Theotis Pressley, Franklin Park Resident

Edward Rener, Project Manager, Franklin Park Development
Yvonne Sumlin, Washington Park
Sallie Tillman Watson, Washington Park

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm. Roll call was taken. A quorum was present.

1. Election of Officers

Motion: Following the nominations of Alverine Brihm and Eligha Lewis, Ms. Brihm was elected Chair by a vote of 4 to 1.

Motion: Following the nominations of Julia Porter and Marquis Curry, Mr. Curry was elected Vice Chair by a vote of 3 to 2.

2. Approval of Minutes of February 18, 2015 Meeting

Ms. Brihm requested comments or corrections. Mr. Lewis suggested several changes.

Motion: Mr. Curry moved to approve the motion with the necessary corrections. This motion was seconded by Reverend Scipio. The motion was carried with a 4 - 1 vote.

Staff reviewed the Board attendance policy. Ms. Brihm announced a vacant seat is available that needs to be filled by a resident of Boulevard Gardens. Appointment to the seat is made by the Broward County Board of Broward County Commissioners. Application forms were provided to the Boulevard Gardens Homeowners Association. Anyone interested should call 954-357-5934.

The Chair introduced Edward Grana, Project Manager for the Franklin Park Development. Mr. Grana announced residents are being hired to assist with labor. The company also seeks to contract with minority businesses as part of the project. Applications are being taken the first Tuesday of the month at the project site. Workforce One is providing assistance to link local businesses and job applicants. Both businesses and job applicants are subject to income and residency requirements.

3. Broward Municipal Services District Budget

Alphonso Jefferson presented a summary of the Broward Municipal Services District budget, which includes Central County and Broadview Park. Socio-economic data, including unemployment and housing statistics were presented.

Board member request a breakdown of the housing statistics for the number of rental units compared to homeownership in the Central County neighborhoods.

Mr. Jefferson discussed the responsibilities of the Internal Team, on-going park projects, and various street improvements. Broward County is considering relocating the Boys and Girls Club. The County also acquired Tater Town. The Internal Team is working on strategies to address illegal dumping and increased focus is being placed on blight removal, vacant structure board-up, and inoperable vehicles.

4. Broward Municipal Services District Board Workshop

Mr. Jefferson reported on the Board Workshop. Improvements to bus shelters, street lighting, sidewalks, pedestrian and bicycle facilities are being considered. He mentioned the internal team consist of department heads and managers that meet regularly to discuss projects and issues. The internal team is focusing on business development on NW 27th Avenue. The redevelopment of Tater Town presents an opportunity for a public/private partnership, as well as a chance to work with community-based organizations. The combined initiatives are expected to produce results to demonstrate to the Board of County Commissioners that the \$4.8 million investment is yielding positive change. A discussion took place about relocating the Boys and Girls Club to Delevoe Park. The allocation of Law Enforcement funds and the requirements of the wind mitigation grant were explained. Details of the wind mitigation grant will be provided to the Advisory Board.

5. Homebuyers Assistance Programs

Patricia Stevenson gave an overview of the programs that the Housing Finance and Community Development Division offers to assist eligible homeowners. These include purchase assistance, down payment assistance, home repair, and water/sewer connections. Specific information about how to get on the list for the Franklin Park Project will be available by the end of July. Other housing programs include the Neighborhood Stabilization Program, Emergency Solutions Grants, Tenant-Based Rental Assistance, Fair Housing Outreach and Education, and Affordable Rental Projects. Commissioner Holness mentioned that housing counseling agencies are locally available. Registration is done on-line. He also noted the progress being made through the Central County Community Advisory Board and the efforts of county staff with commercial and residential improvements.

A Board member asked to be provided with the number of homes completed through the NSP program and that the information be forwarded to the Board member.

A question was raised about the confiscation of business properties that have code violations. Mr. Tinsley noted tools have been developed to provide business owners an opportunity to access assistance for property improvements.

6. Broward Sheriff's Office and Code Enforcement Update

Gerald Henry gave a brief summary of code enforcement activity for the first two quarters of this fiscal year, October 1, 2014 to the end of March 2015. Over 1800 field inspections were conducted and 910 cases were opened. The compliance rate was 92%. Twenty-five vacant and abandoned properties were registered that are being maintained by mortgaging and financial institutions. An inquiry was made about how the fees collected from the Rental Registration Program and Inspection are being used. Mr. Henry stated the fees become part of the Broward Municipal Services District budget. Mr. Lewis requested that weekend personnel be funded in the budget.

Lieutenant Richard Pisanti gave a brief report on crime and the cost of deputies. Cameras are being proposed to help combat crime and the Broward Sheriff's Office is working with the County to secure funding.

7. Informational Items (additional copies provided for community distribution)

- a. Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- b. Broward County Job Opportunities

8. Non-agenda Items

An e-mail was sent to homeowners and civic association presidents seeking input on a justice assistance grant. Captain Dunbar should be sent any ideas they have about justice assistance or law enforcement.

A press conference was held at the Urban League regarding the dangers of synthetic drug use.

The County's Grant Administrator continues to look for grant opportunities.

An inquiry was made about providing education on business planning. Sandy McDonald stated the Economic Development staff will begin business planning presentations in June and are available to attend homeowners and civic association meetings upon request.

Mr. Lewis passed out informational material regarding saving the swales, police arrests, urban blight and a pamphlet on making government work for you. The information provided helpful hints on how to improve blighted and high crime communities. The information was provided by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the local newspaper.

Community member requested that the district budget be broken down line-by-line and also be reviewed for cost saving opportunities.

Ms. Brihm announced the next Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 19, 2015 and adjourned the meeting.

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-59), can be provided after a 24 hour notice to the Document Control and Minutes Section at 954-357-7297.