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PALMETTO COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY
ADVISORY BOARD
March 9, 2010 – 5:30 PM

PLEDGE OF PUBLIC CONDUCT
We may disagree, but we will be respectful to one another.
We will direct all comments to issues.
We will avoid personal attacks.

516 8th Avenue West
Palmetto, Florida 34221
<http://www.palmettoredev.org>

(941) 723-4988

Advisory Board Members Present

Charles Smith, Chairman
Sia Mollanazar, Vice Chair
Betty Ann Price
Nick Costides
Mickey Presha (arrived late)

Staff Present

Jeff Burton, Interim CRA Administrator
Beverly Minnix, Executive Assistant
Mark Barnebey, City Attorney



Chairman Smith called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.



1. CRA ADVISORY BOARD AGENDA APPROVAL

MOTION: Ms. Price moved and Mr. Costides seconded and the motion carried 5-0 to approve the March 9, 2010 meeting Agenda.



2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Mr. Costides moved, Ms. Price seconded and the motion carried unanimously to approve the minutes of February 9, 2010 & February 25, 2010 CRA Advisory Board Meetings.



3. SELECTION OF CRA ADVISORY BOARD CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Attorney Barnebey coordinated the process of nominations for the election of a Chairman and Vice Chairman

Mr. Barnebey accepted the nomination of Sia Mollanazar and Nick Costides for the office of Chairman.

MOTION: Mr. Costides moved and Ms. Price seconded and motion carried unanimously to close the nominations for the position of Chairman.

The vote was taken and 3 votes for Mr. Mollanazar and 2 votes for Mr. Costides. Mr. Mollanazar is the new Chairman of the CRA Advisory Board for a 12 month period beginning March, 2010.

Mr. Barnebey turned the gavel over to Mr. Mollanazar to continue with the nominations for the office of Vice Chair.

Chairman Mollanazar accepted the nomination of Betty Ann Price and Nick Costides for the office of Vice Chair. Mr. Presha was also nominated but declined the opportunity.

MOTION: Mr. Costides moved and Mr. Smith seconded and the motion carried unanimously to close the nominations for the position of Vice Chair.

The vote was taken and unanimous vote for Ms. Price

Congratulatory comments were made by the new officers



4. PALMETTO ART CENTER, PUBLIC ART MURALS (Gretchen LeClezio)

Mr. Burton updated the Advisory Board on the first phase of the Public Art Murals and introduced Ms. LeClezio who presented graphics for an additional project of utilizing Historical Agricultural Packing Labels to be placed on the Pratt Building on 7th Street and 8th Avenue.

Discussion ensued regarding the project as it relates to the overall plan and budget for the image of the City/CRA District. A request was made by Mr. Smith to Mr. Barnebey as to the need to utilize CRA funds. Mr. Barnebey indicated that the CRA does need a bigger plan as well as an obligation to allocate our funds as they have been accumulating. Mr. Barnebey further opined that we need to start doing some projects in order to continue receiving funds.

Mr. Burton distributed a draft of the first chapter for the CRA's Plan rewrite and gave an update.

Discussion ensued regarding the life of the murals and painting. Mr. Barnebey indicated that our agreements with the owners of the buildings on which murals are placed are for a period of 5 years after which time the murals could be recycled to another location.

CRA staff provided an update on the status of the Storefront Grant Program Color Palette/Catalog.

Discussion continued. Ms. Price queried as to the status of the larger streetscape plan that the CRA Advisory Board recommended to the CRA Board. Mr. Burton advised that the CRA Board took no action at all. Ms Price opined her concerns about approving this action without additional information.

Mr. Presha and Mr. Smith called for the question.

MOTION: Mr. Smith moved and Mr. Presha seconded and the motion carried 3-2 to recommend approval of Public Art Mural label project coordinated by Palmetto Art Center (Sole source) in the amount of \$12,000.00. Funds to come from 190559-8214, 8th Avenue Beautification. Mr. Costides & Ms. Price voted no, Mr. Presha, Mr. Smith and Mr. Mollanazar voted in favor.

At this point in the meeting, Chairman Mollanazar opined his desire to make sure that all members of the Advisory Board receive the same information that is communicated to the Chair.

Mr. Burton then advised the Advisory Board that there were items that went before the CRA Board and were either not acted upon or action taken was opposite of the recommendation by the CRA Advisory Board.

Additional discussion ensued regarding the process of updating our plan and budgeting for items accordingly such as Public Art.

 5. VISTA PRESENTATION (Rosie Wiley)

Mr. Burton introduced Ms. Wiley and Bridgette Haliburton to present an opportunity for the CRA to have a VISTA Volunteer establish records/data for all properties within the CRA District. This will establish a baseline.

Discussion ensued with Mr. Costides opining that we should have a program in place to address areas before they are identified. Mr. Burton opined that the CRA know where they are, what exists and where you want to go. Mr. Burton indicated that in order to progress with our plan we need to know where we are and what exists. Mr. Burton further informed the Advisory Board that we intend to partner with VISTA/Americorp to implement a residential improvement program. This initiative will be brought back to the Advisory Board when more progress has been made.

Ms. Wiley introduced the VISTA volunteers that attended the meeting. Ms. Wiley then gave a brief overview of the program.

Ms. Haliburton then provided benefits of being a VISTA Volunteer and the programs that they are currently working on.

Mr. Smith opined his concern regarding the limitations on applicants/candidates not being allowed to work. Mr. Smith felt that this limitation eliminates too many people from participating in the program. Mr. Smith also opined concern that the right individual be selected to gain confidence in the communities in which they will be performing work.

MOTION: Mr. Presh moved and Mr. Smith seconded and the motion carried unanimously to recommend approval to fund one (1) VISTA volunteer for purpose of GIS data collecting for CRA. Funds to come from 190559-8214 GIS Study. This motion also carried the condition of pledge that the activities of this initiative will not benefit code enforcement efforts.

 6. 5th STREET WEST, STREETScape PILOT


Mr. Burton provided information on this project. Mr. Burton indicated that the City had requested repair of the sidewalks on 5th Street. The CRA plan does not allow us to do maintenance but allows to enhance. Mr. Burton met with several of the business owners regarding their desire to enhance 5th Street as a Pilot program that could be used as a proto type for future projects of this nature. Mr. Burton again advised the Advisory Board that they sent a recommendation to the CRA Board to approve a larger project but the CRA did not act upon that request. Mr. Burton

continued to explain the concept of the streetscape pilot. Discussion ensued from various members regarding this project and relating this project back into a larger plan. The Advisory Board discussed having a joint workshop meeting with the CRA Board to review previously submitted recommendations.


MOTION: Mr. Presha moved and Mr. Smith seconded and the motion carried unanimously to recommend approval for the design plan of a Streetscape Pilot Program on 5th Street West with the expense not to exceed \$10,000.00. Funds to come from 1905598214.

MOTION: Mr. Costides moved and Mr. Presha seconded and the motion carried unanimously to recommend a joint Workshop meeting with the CRA Board to discuss the possibility of expanding the project to much bigger area than just the 5th Street West Pilot.

Mr. Barnebey expressed caution about the cost of the 5th Street West Streetscape did not warrant going out to bid based upon the price. If the project expands and the price of the planning proposal goes up, it is possible that we may have to go out for bid. Additionally Mr. Barnebey indicated that he had not reviewed the contract. Discussion ensued regarding the bidding process and requirements and the intent of the purchasing policy.

 7. GIS PARK STUDY INFORMATION Informational only – Mr. Burton reviewed the updated potential park map with the Advisory Board explaining that the information was to allow drive by's. Mr. Burton highlighted areas to bring to the Advisory Board's attention.

Mr. Mollanazar re trimming on the Mangroves at Palmetto Estuary Preserve

 8. RIVERSIDE PARK ENHANCEMENT (Jeff Burton)
Mr. Burton provided an overview of the Riverside Park Enhancement Study done prior to Mr. Burton's arrival at the CRA. This is being brought forward again due to severe deterioration of the sea wall cap at the park. This issues need to be addressed before the sea wall fails. The expense of doing this are estimated to be in the hundreds of thousands of dollars. Since the CRA by plan and statute cannot repair, this expense would fall on the City. However if we were to enhance the entire park, CRA could fund the initiative. The plan needs to be reviewed and trimmed down. Mr. Burton requested that Ms. Price review the plan and bring it back with some possible options to address this issue.

Mr. Costides opined his concern of the location of the Park and spending large amounts on this park due to the proximity to the highway. Mr. Costides would like to have this item added to the joint workshop meeting with the CRA Board.

Mr. Barnebey stated that this area serves not only as a park but as an entrance way into the City as well as a connector to the Green Bridge.

Discussion ensued about various options and issues for the Riverside Park

9. CRA ATTORNEY'S COMMENTS - None

10. CRA INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR'S COMMENTS - None

11. CRA ADVISORY BOARD COMMENTS
Mickey Presha - None

Nick Costides –


1. Requested update on the CBI RFP – Mr. Burton provided an update
2. Requested that CRA Staff develop and provide on a monthly basis a simple spreadsheet of action items taken by the Advisory Board and subsequent action taken by the CRA Board.
3. Requested that items to be acted upon be seen and recommended by the Advisory Board prior to going to the CRA Board. Further expounded that it be for items that come thru the CRA Staff.
4. Requested that the Public Works provide, in writing, a monthly report of the CRA Projects that are managed by Public Works.

Charles Smith – expressed his appreciation for serving as Chairman. Mr. Smith indicated that he will have a difficult schedule over the next few months and is subject to missing a few meetings. Mr. Smith indicated that he had a conversation with Mr. Burton about the spending of funds. Mr. Burton added to Mr. Smith's comments. Mr. Barnebey confirmed that the statute does state that CRA's must spend or allocate funds for projects.

Betty Ann Price – No comments

Chairman Mollanazar – Requested that page numbers be placed on the agenda page. Mr. Mollanazar also requested the same 1 page summary of CRA Advisory Board Actions and subsequent actions by the CRA Board

12 CITIZENS COMMENTS - Anyone wishing to speak before the City Commission must complete the Speakers Card, stating name, address, and topic to be addressed and be sworn in prior to the meeting. All comments will be limited to two minutes.

13.ADJOURNMENT  Meeting Adjourned 7:50 pm

NEXT REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING –APRIL 13, 2010

The City of Palmetto does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, marital status or handicapped status in employment or in the provision of services. Handicapped individuals may receive special accommodation in services on one working day's notice (Fla. Stat. §286.26) Anyone requiring reasonable accommodation for this meeting as provided for in the Americans with Disabilities Act should contact the Community Redevelopment Agency by telephone at 941-723-4988, fax 941-723-4704 or e-mail jburlton@palmettoff.org or bminnix@palmettoff.org.

Approved:

_____ Jeff Burlon, Interim CRA Administrator

NOTICE

Anyone wishing to speak before the CRA Advisory Board must sign in prior to the meeting, stating name, address, and topic to be addressed. All comments will be limited to two minutes. If any person desires to appeal any decision of the City Commission or of any other board or commission of the City, that person will need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based in accordance with Florida Statutes, Section 288.0105. The City of Palmetto does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, marital status or handicapped status in employment or in the provision of services. Handicapped individuals may receive special accommodations in services on 48 hours' notice in accordance with Florida Statutes, Section 288.28.