

**Englewood Redevelopment Area (CRA)
Advisory Board Meeting**
Meeting Minutes of Monday, December 14, 2015, 1:00 p.m.

Call to Order

Vice Chair Todd Tracy called to order the regular meeting of the Englewood Community Redevelopment Area (CRA) Advisory Board at 1:07 p.m. on Monday, December 14, 2015, at Lemon Bay Park and Environmental Center, 570 Bay Park Blvd., Englewood, FL 34223.

Roll Call

Present: Chair Elaine Miller (arrived at 1:23 pm), John Davison, Don Landis, John Mead, Todd Tracy

Absent: N/A

Sarasota County Staff Present

Debbie Marks, CRA Manager

Mary Kruzel, Administrative Specialist

Sarah Blanchard, SCAT Senior Transit Planner

Christopher DeAnnuntis, SCAT Transit Planning Manager

Approval of Minutes from November 9, 2015 Meeting

Vice Chair Todd Tracy requested a motion to accept the approval of the November 9, 2015 meeting minutes.

Motion: To accept the minutes of November 9, 2015 as presented, **Action:** Approved, **Moved by** John Davison, **Seconded by** John Mead.
Motion passed unanimously.

Open to Public

None

New Business

Debbie Marks introduced Mary Kruzel, the new CRA Administrative Specialist, to the group.

Todd Tracy asked Debbie Marks for a status update on the appointments for the vacancies. Debbie advised the vacancies should be filled by February.

Elections of Officers

Motion: To nominate Elaine Miller as Chair, **Action:** Approved, **Moved by** John Mead, **Seconded by** John Davison.

Motion passed 3 to 1, with Mr. Tracy opposing.

Motion: To nominate John Davison as Chair, **Action:** Approved, **Moved by** Todd Tracy, **Seconded by** Elaine Miller.

Motion did not pass, 1 to 3 with Mr. Mead, Mr. Davison and Mr. Landis opposing.

Motion: To nominate John Davison as Vice Chair, **Action:** Approved, **Moved by** Todd Tracy, **Seconded by** John Mead.

Motion passed unanimously.

Funding Request – Englewood Cape Haze Kiwanis Club

Debbie Marks spoke on behalf of Rose Hipps, who was not present. Debbie explained that the funding request, for up to \$1000.00, from the Englewood Cape Haze Kiwanis Club, would assist with event costs such as permitting, signs, and deputies since alcohol is being served. Proceeds would benefit the Cancer Foundation. The benefit will take place at Joyce Colmar's property, across from the plaza, and it is the second year it has been held.

Motion: To approve the funding request up to \$1000.00, **Action:** Approved, **Moved by** John Mead, **Seconded by** John Davison.

Motion passed unanimously.

How To Improve Transit in Sarasota – Sarah Blanchard

Sarah Blanchard, SCAT Senior Transit Planner and Christopher DeAnnuntis, SCAT Transit Planning Manager, gave a presentation on the efforts Sarasota County Area Transit (SCAT) is taking to improve service in Sarasota County. Ms. Blanchard acknowledged that Englewood currently has one bus route, route 16, which operates six days a week on an hourly basis. Ms. Blanchard advised the board that SCAT would be gathering input and studying data for proposals to the Board in June or July. SCAT is currently holding public meetings in Sarasota and Venice, and would be happy to hold an event in Englewood. Chair Elaine Miller commented that the Chamber of Commerce should be included in a transit discussion.

The group discussed several possible improvements to the current bus service, including:

- Reducing commute time from Englewood to Sarasota.
- Implementing a Water Ferry to Middle Beach.
- Adding bus service on Sunday.
- Adding a bus route to Manasota Beach.
- Adding more bus stops in Englewood.
- Adding a route that looped around just Englewood.

Ms. Blanchard distributed a flyer listing the bus route in Englewood, SCAT accomplishments and development plans currently being considered by the transit authority. Ms. Blanchard also facilitated a map game, advising participants that responses would be incorporated into the current study. The participants were instructed to place a dot on the map where they live and a second dot where they shop and work. The participants also ranked the top three items on a matrix by priority, with 1 having the highest importance. Some items listed on the Matrix included:

- Earlier morning service.
- Later night service.
- More frequent service
- More routes.

- Service on major holidays.
- More shelters.
- More express routes.
- Service to Englewood beach was added to the matrix at the request of Chair Elaine Miller.

Old Business

Unimproved Roads

Debbie Marks advised that she was waiting on cost estimates for the project, but should be ready to hold a public hearing on the topic in February, 2016. Todd Tracy suggested that the CRA follow-up with residents to see if there is still interest in pursuing the venture. Debbie Marks agreed to send survey cards to those who had previously shown interest, asking if they still want to pursue the project since there will have to be a monetary contribution for those involved.

Waterfest Wrap-up

Chair Elaine Miller gave a brief wrap-up of Waterfest, informing the board that overall the event was a success. Chair Miller estimated that individuals riding the buses to attend the races ranged from 15,000 to 20,000. Parade and block party attendance was estimated at around 10,000. There were some challenges with weather, reducing attendance slightly, but only one minor arrest was made during the entire event. Chair Miller reported excellent collaboration amongst the jurisdictional agencies, with everyone working together. The finances are still being finalized, but it will be within one to two percent of the break-even point. Geographically, the venue is perfect and the racers would like to come back next year.

Upcoming Events – Debbie Mark

Debbie Marks presented the upcoming events for Englewood:

Englewood Fire Department Open House: December 19, 9am – 1pm on Plaza Property

Sub-Committee Updates

- Museum Committee – Mary Gregory reported that the museum had a wonderful grand opening ceremony. Representatives from three different local families participated in the ribbon cutting, and approximately 125 people attended. Comment card responses were all positive and included comments such as “ceremony very nice, loved the museum”. The museum is closed through the holidays, but will reopen January 7, 2016. Hours will be Thursday thru Saturday from 10am – 4pm and Sunday from 1pm – 4pm. A visitor to the museum is making her a stand to hold her sign, and it should be installed shortly.
- Water Ferry Committee – Debbie Marks spoke on behalf of Russ Kyper, who was not present. Debbie advised the board that Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) approved all eight daily ferry trips. The committee is ready to go before the County Commission (Board), and attest that they have approval from the FWC and an agreement with Sarasota County Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources.