

**MINUTES
COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
NOVEMBER 20, 2008**

Pursuant to Public Notice, Vice-Chairman David Schechter convened a regular meeting of the Community Redevelopment Agency Advisory Committee at 6:38 p.m., on Thursday, November 20, 2008, in the Council Chamber and Sue Gaines led the Pledge of Allegiance. Those present were David Schechter, Sue Gaines, Ron Van Meter, Scott Rhodes, David Omler and alternate Conrad Lawlor. Building Official John Stone and Suzanne McLendon were also present. Janice Oberwetter and alternate, Rochelle Lawandales were absent.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

DISCUSS/TAKE ACTION REGARDING THE EXTENSION OF CRA FACADE GRANT FUNDING FOR REPLACEMENT OF NON-CONFORMING POLE SIGNS

Building Official John Stone stated that the facade grant program originally provided matching funds for replacing pole signs through November 30, 2007 and then it was extended through September 30, 2008. He noted that it was currently expired and asked the board for direction on renewing this program.

Chairman Schechter noted that the deadline for all non-conforming signs to be changed to monument signs is December 30, 2010.

Public Comments

None

Ron Van Meter **MOVED, SECOND** Conrad Lawlor to recommend extending the facade grant funding for replacement of non-conforming pole signs until December 31, 2009. **VOTE:** All ayes. **MOTION CARRIED.**

DISCUSS/TAKE ACTION ON FACADE GRANT REQUESTS FOR ATLANTIC PLAZA

Mr. Schechter noted that only one of the proposed signs for the Atlantic Plaza had the address listed. He inquired if it was required to be on both.

Mr. Stone responded that the code says "all freestanding monument signs shall have street address numbers," and that he will have them incorporate this into the plan for both signs. He also responded to additional questions from the board.

Public Comments

None

Conrad Lawlor **MOVED, SECOND** David Omler to recommend to City Council the approval of the facade grant for Atlantic Plaza for half the amount of the project up to \$15,000.00 and contingent on the signs meeting the code. **VOTE:** All ayes. **MOTION CARRIED.**

DISCUSS/TAKE ACTION ON PERCENTAGE OF WINDOW SIGNAGE ALLOWED

Mr. Stone stated that the code currently allows up to 10% of the glazed area to be covered with window signage. He stated that a council member has asked that the CRA Advisory Committee and the Planning and Zoning Advisory Board consider if this percentage is too low.

Mr. Schechter noted that the primary concern with this issue is safety.

Mr. Stone noted that this has not been a primary enforcement issue unless there has been a complaint. He also noted that he has talked to Commander Pearson about this issue, and that they address this on a case by case issue when they need better visibility at a business checkout area.

Mr. Schechter commented that he would prefer to see if there is any additional information in the Community Policing Through Environmental Design Policy and bring this item back to the board at the next meeting.

DISCUSS/TAKE ACTION ON BEACH ACCESS DESIGNS AND COSTS FOR GRANT AVENUE AND DESOTO PARKWAY

Mr. Schechter noted that Steve Rogers had not arrived to present this item.

Mr. Schechter read a statement regarding this item from committee member Janice Oberwetter who was not able to attend the meeting this evening.

The committee looked over the renderings of these two beach accesses.

Scott Rhodes commented about the materials proposed for the accesses. He stated that he would like to see composite materials for all of the decking. He noted that while this may cost more money initially, but that this will hold up in the beach weather better than pressure treated wood. He also commented on the plantings on the south side of the Grant Avenue access replacing the asphalt at this access and limiting the parking space even further.

Mr. Schechter noted that the city engineer, David King, was not present this evening to provide information about this change.

Sue Gaines stated agreement with Mr. Rhodes noting that there is not much property at this access.

Mr. Rhodes also inquired as to why the emergency vehicle access is being included at this location. He also had questions about the water being used for showers at this access, and he questioned the irrigation plans. He suggested using native plants that do not require watering after the plantings are established.

Mr. Schechter addressed the committee and stated that he would like to see Ms. Canady, Mr. Rhodes and Steve Rogers meet to discuss the issues Mr. Rhodes has brought up this evening, namely composite decking, plantings taking up parking space and native plantings to save water and resources. He also stated that he would prefer not to take any action on this item this evening. Instead, he stated that he would be willing to hold another meeting in December to finalize this item after these issues are addressed.

Ms. Gaines noted that she was pleased to see that the bike racks were going to be changed based on issues with those used at Pelican Beach Park.

STAFF REPORT

Mr. Stone provided some details regarding the project at Hightower Beach Park and stated that the groundbreaking ceremony will be held December 2, 2008.

He also noted that new Publix at Atlantic Plaza is coming along, and that although they have not set an opening date, they are still hoping to be open before the end of the year.

Mr. Stone presented the Montecito Interlocal Agreement at the request of the City Manager so that the committee would have an understanding of the relationship between Montecito and the City. Mr. Stone noted that Montecito has contributed funds and handed over the primary control of the project to the City.

Ms. Gaines clarified that the funding profile has not changed at all.

Sue Gaines **MOVED, SECOND** David Omler to recommend to City Council that they continue with the process of the City assuming responsibility from Montecito for the engineering and funding of the entry signs at the north end of the city, with the assumption that the funding amounts remain the same as originally agreed upon.
VOTE: All ayes. **MOTION CARRIED.**

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Mr. Rhodes asked why the orientations of the shelters at the beach accesses were changed so that the gable ends would face east and west?

Mr. Stone replied that he was not sure why this change was made, and noted that he would ask the city engineer why this change was made.

MEMBER COMMENTS/REPORTS

David Omler commented that he was looking forward to the new Publix opening up.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: SEPTEMBER 25, 2008

Sue Gaines **MOVED, SECOND** David Omler to approve the minutes of the September 25, 2008 regular meeting as presented. **VOTE:** All ayes. **MOTION CARRIED.**

NEXT MEETING DATE: DECEMBER 18, 2008

Vice-Chairman Schechter adjourned the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tania Miner
Recording Secretary