

Lealman Community Redevelopment Area Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

February 28, 2017 ~ 6:00

The meeting was held on Tuesday, February 28, 2017 in the Crown Buick /GMC Dealership Training Room, 5237 – 34th Street North, St. Petersburg, FL 33714.

1. Call to Order (James Roberto –co-chair)

The meeting opened at 6:05 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Members: Gary Grooms; Sean Ingber; Jorge Mercado; Cheryl DiCicco, Dwayne Hawkins; Steve Cleveland and James Roberto. **New Committee Members:** Danielle Barber & Brian Ellis

Absent Members: None

County Staff: Rachel Booth, Chris Young and Marcella Faucette

Public: Eleanor Lovell – Lealman Community Association

Eric Schlerd – Lealman Resident

Annie Lindberg – Tampa Bay Reporter

3. Introductions of new committee members

The attendees introduced themselves and welcomed the new members.

- **Florida Sunshine Law Memo**

A Memorandum written by Senior Assistant County Attorney, David S. Sadowsky, explaining the “Sunshine Law” Requirements, was provided to the Committee Members. The Committee discussed CRA representation on other boards and committees; the sharing of information; potential conflicts of interest and potential voting conflicts.

If a potential conflict exists, Ms. Booth advised the Committee Members to think about their roles and to consider where/how they can be most effective, whether as a voting member or as an advocate of the community making sure that an issue is addressed or a recommendation heard.

Ms. Booth stated that it is very important to be mindful when attending meetings/functions with other groups/organizations due to the fact that as the CRA Committee, budgetary (TIFF, CDBG etc.) recommendations for a variety of programs are being discussed and decided upon. Ms. Booth also stated that she would ask Mr. Sadowsky for additional clarification on conflicts and the best approach for members who serve on multiple boards or committees.

4. Approval of Minutes – January 24, 2017 Meeting

Upon motion by Mr. Jorge Mercado, seconded by Mr. Steve Cleveland, the minutes of the meeting of January 24, 2017 were unanimously approved.

5. Old Business/Action Items

- **First Year Budget and Programs(Final review, discussion and action)**

In order to address the concerns of the Committee regarding the modifications to the percentages and dollar amounts of the budget as recommended by the Committee, Ms. Booth explained the dynamic influx of interest within the Lealman CRA Area. She continued that the goal is always to use the available funds as effectively and efficiently as possible. She also stressed the importance of being able to quickly take advantage of opportunities and partnerships as they arise, which may bring about budgetary adjustments.

Upon motion by Ms. Cheryl DiCicco, seconded by Mr. Sean Ingber, the budget was approved as amended 8-0, with 1 abstention (Mr. Steve Cleveland)

6. New Business

- **Identify other potential organizations/groups and envisioned role that through unique partnerships with the Pinellas County Community Redevelopment Agency and Lealman CRA to effectively and efficiently carry out the goals and objectives of the approved CRA Plan.**

Ms. Booth informed the Committee of the variety of projects, as listed below, that are occurring within the Lealman CRA :

- **Sidewalk Segment Improvements**
25th St N from 62 Ave N. to Sawgrass
- **Joe's Creek Greenway Improvements (Phase I & Phase II)**
Design and installation for park improvements and amenities (i.e. Restroom facilities, signage, parking, security lighting, multi-purpose fields, fitness facilities/trail (TBD), bike rack, disk golf, dog run, and active recreation improvement facilities)
- **Joe's Creek Greenway Trail Alignment (Forward Pinellas)**
A feasibility study to determine/identify route and associated costs of trail expansion east-west from St Pete, 34th Ave N. to Park street incorporating Joe's Creek current trail system. (Approximately 4 miles)
- **Joe's Creek Greenway Monument Sign**
Replacement of Joe's Creek Greenway signage at 46 Ave N. The entry monument, parking, and logo will be relocated/improved to a more visible and centralized location on park property
- **54th Ave Business Association**
Development of a business registry and organizational body to promote, guide, and develop commercial activity along 54th Ave N.

Ms. Booth then discussed the various partnering opportunities as listed below:

- **Enhanced Bus Shelter Improvements (PSTA) (Mobility and Accessibility Program)**
Support the installation of bus shelters with upgraded, community specific amenities that will enhance the community aesthetics and transit services. Funding available in coordination with Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority.
- **Residential Rehabilitation Program Grants and Loans**
Opportunity to partner with Community Redevelopment for grants and funding opportunities for expansion of current residential rehabilitation programs.
- **Property Acquisition and Single Family Rehabilitation**
Opportunity to partner with Community Redevelopment for grants and funding opportunities to assist in the purchase and rehabilitation of blighted single family residences and larger residential developments.
- **Food Retail/Grocery Store Location Opportunities**
Opportunity to partner with Community Redevelopment for funding opportunities to identify, purchase, and redevelop a suitable retail location.
- **Initiating Pedestrian Improvements for 40th St. between 54th Ave N and 58th Ave N.**
Partnership opportunity with Community Development
- **Complete Streets Design Application (Forward Pinellas)**
Grant application to conduct study in which key opportunities will be identified including interconnectivity of communities and amenities, improved transit access, community character, improving pedestrian safety, guiding of private development, and streetscape opportunities/options. The project will produce short, mid-term, and long-term goals and recommendations.

Ms. Booth asked the Committee if they could think of any other groups or organizations that would be interested in partnering with the Lealman CRA on any projects. She asked them to please email her or Mr. Young with any prospects or ideas should they think of any before the next meeting.

She informed the Committee of Ms. DiCicco's recent book drive project with other retired teachers to distribute books to children in Lealman.

- **Strategic Action Plan (SAP) (Appendix C) overview**

Ms. Booth and Mr. Young provided revised final versions of the various Residential, Business and Community oriented programs and their descriptions. After a brief discussion, Ms. Booth informed the Committee that the programs would be adopted into the Plan as Appendix C.

7. Comments

The Committee requested that brief weekly status updates be emailed to them.

8. Next Meeting Date and Items for Next Agenda (Tentative)

- a. March 28, 2017
- b. Elect chair/co-chair positions

Upon motion by Mr. Jorge Mercado, seconded by Mr. James Roberto, the next meeting date, scheduled for March 28, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. was unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.