

Eloise CRA Advisory Committee Meeting
June 7, 2016
6:00 p.m.
Johnny and Freda Brooks Resource Center
(Eloise Resource Center)
Eloise, Florida

Committee Chair, John Fleming, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., welcoming all stakeholder attendees and turned the meeting over to Dawn Decaminada, CRA Manager for introductions of other Polk County BoCC employees. Advisory Committee Members Christina Alvarado, Mike Seney, Larry Powell, Lee Castillo were all present comprising a quorum.

Agenda and Guest Introduction

Staff gave a general reminder that community members should not wait to report any issues and to please call the Community Development and Small Business office immediately at 863-534-5915.

Staff discussed the Indigent Health Care half cent sales tax. Staff explained the Indigent Health Care will expire on 2019 if not further extended. A member of the audience asked where to receive more information and staff advised that the Community Development and Small Business office will attach a sheet of information on Indigent Health Care to the minutes and will provide more handouts to the Resource Center for the community. Staff also mentioned they will not promote the half cent sales tax but they can provide someone who can advocate and speak on it at the next CRA Meeting. Staff then turned the meeting back to Committee Chair, John Fleming.

Guests:

Julie Revell, Arts Ensemble
Janie Torres
Julie Farish, Habitat for Humanity of East Polk County

Staff

Anna Sancruzado, Recreation Coordinator
Sherry Sheffield, Code Enforcement Department
Deputy Steve Theriac, Polk County Sherriff's Office
Elizabeth Voss, Assistant County Attorney
Dawn Decaminada, Business Assistance Manager
Lea Ann Thomas, Deputy County Manager
Beneshea Simmons, Senior Community Development Coordinator

Summary of Meeting

Approval of Minutes

(#3 on agenda)

Committee Chair, John Fleming called for a motion to approve the February 29, 2016 meeting minutes. Mike Seney moved to approve with a second from Larry Powell. All approved.

Requests from the General Public/Audience and Opportunity to be heard; 3 minutes/person

(#4 on agenda)

Julie Farish, with Habitat for Humanity of East Polk County, extended a thank you to the Eloise CRA for down payment assistance. She said Amy Torres’s home was dedicated last month and it was a great celebration. Committee Member, Larry Powell asked Julie Farish if there was still money available for down payment assistance. Ms. Farish stated there is still money and three lots available. Committee Member, Mike Seney asked if they have applicants for the lots. Ms. Farish stated they had seventeen applicants in their pool and of those some of them have not had land choice yet. She stated when the applicants are ready for land choice the lots will be a part of that choice.

A community member asked if they could receive speed bumps on 7th and 5th street. Staff said they will have the transportation department look at those streets to see if they meet the criteria and report back on their results. The community member says many children play in the street. Deputy Steve Theriac, with the Polk County Sherriff’s Office, said with a speed trailer they could do an analysis of speed and time and work with transportation. He said that a speed trailer would be the first step. Committee Member, Larry Powel said he did not believe they could have a speed bump placed on a dead-end street and spoke of the speed issues in the community. Staff stated they would address the issue as well. **Update: Referring back to meeting notes from 12/1/15 a traffic study was performed in response to a request made at a previous meeting about lowering the posted speed limit or installing speed humps on the residential streets intersecting Snively Avenue. Staff advised that a sampling was performed and the results did not show a speeding problem or justification for reducing speed or the need for speed humps.**

Program and Project Status- Waste Management Debris Pickup Status

(#6 on agenda)

Staff spoke on behalf of Michael Guerrero with the Waste Management Department. Staff advised overall the area looks good as far as waste collection. 16 bulk piles have scheduled for service which will be between tomorrow and close of business on Friday. **(week of June 6th)**

Below is basic information about the next garbage contract

W&R has released an RFP for the next garbage collection contract effective 10/2/17.

- The County will be divided into 3 zones being serviced by 3 different haulers.
- Republic is not participating in the bid.
- Collection of garbage, recycling and yard trash will continue to be once per week
- Changes:
 - Recycling roll carts similar to garbage carts will be provided to those who choose to recycle
 - Yard trash will be unlimited with defined dimensions
 - No single piece >6’ in length or 6” in diameter
 - Bulk was will be collected within 72-business hours of identification but will be limited to no more than 2 items per week.

Program and Project Status – Code Enforcement

(#6b on agenda)

Code Enforcement, Staff advised that Melanie McVay is now the new Code Investigator for the Eloise area due to boundary changes. Staff stated Melanie McVay was unable to attend the meeting due to illness but would be introduced at the next CRA meeting. Since the last CRA meeting there have been five cleanups,

some as recent as the last few weeks. Two cleanups were completed on 6th Street, two more completed on 4th Street and one completed on 1st Street which was done on 6-7-2016. A cleanup is when contracted vendors come in and completely clean the property.

Committee Member, Larry Powell asked about the Smith property and Sherry Sheffield said she has noticed the issue and will make a call to the owner. **Update: The owner has been contacted and weather permitting the property will be mowed within the week.**

Program and Project Status – Arts Ensemble and Learning Foundations

(#6c on agenda)

Julie Revell of Arts Ensemble gave a status of the program. She said they have 60 children and 20 teenagers signed up for programs this summer.

Committee Member, Larry Powell mentioned at the last meeting Julie Revell had discussed attending a meeting with TPO on Snively Ave. Julie Revell stated that she did not have any updates from that meeting. Staff member Dawn Decaminada stated that she met with the School Board and the main focus was to make Snively Ave more accessible when school lets out. She said part of what TPO and the School Board is looking at is creating a lane that goes around the area to create a diversion of traffic and possibly moving the school zone light for better visibility. A few ideas were not feasible but TPO is working on the problem. Part of what TPO mentioned is beautification and better signage when entering Eloise or the crosswalk becoming brighter for visibility. Staff advised that nothing has been decided. Committee Member, Larry Powell asked about the school board not being mentioned in the CRA meeting minutes. Staff stated that this is not a CRA project. TPO has the jurisdiction but the school board was now involved due to the school zone being the issue.

Program and Project Status – Polk County Sheriff's Office

(#6d on agenda)

Deputy Steve Theriac, Polk County Sheriff's Office reported that last month there was only one tracked crime which are burglaries, crimes or problematic crimes. One incident happened in Eloise on 2nd Street North and it was cleared by arrest.

A community member said that his property on 102 5th Street received some vandalism two nights ago and a window was broken. The man stated that the building located on that property is set to be demolished.

Committee Member, Larry Powell, asked about speed traps. Deputy Steve Theriac said the department has been busy with other areas. Deputy Theriac thinks Eloise is on their schedule but he is not sure of when.

New Business

(#7 on agenda)

Staff gave an update on terms for the CRA Board. Committee Members Larry Powell and Christina Alvarado and Committee Chair John Fleming are going into their second term. Committee Members Mike Seney and Lee Castillo are still in the first term. She stated that Mike Seney's term will be done in September 2016 and he can be reappointed if he so wishes. Lee Castillo's term will be done in June of 2017, Christina Alvarado's term will be done January of 2018, Larry Powell's term will be done May of 2019 and John Fleming's term will be done July of 2018.

Staff advised that currently there is not an elected Vice-Chair to assist if Committee Chair John Fleming was unable to attend. Committee Chair John Fleming nominated Committee Member Larry Powell to be Vice-Chair and Committee Member Mike Seney seconded the nomination. All Committee members voted in favor and none opposed.

Staff addressed the Citrus Connection transportation information request that was given at the February 29th Eloise CRA meeting from the committee to the Citrus Connection representative. Staff has not received a response from the Citrus Connection on the survey and statistics of transportation needs in the Eloise community. As soon as information was received it would be distributed and given at the next meeting.

Old Business and Updates

(#8 on agenda)

N/A

Set Date of Next Advisory Board Meeting

(# 9 on agenda)

Staff advised that they will have an update at the September meeting regarding the Eloise Redevelopment Plan and implementation strategies for the future.

Normal meeting dates are the 1st Tuesday of the last month of each quarter, subject to Advisory Committee preference and time. The next quarterly ECRA Advisory Committee meeting to be held at the Johnny and Freda Resource Center (formerly Eloise Community Resource Center) was tentatively scheduled as follows:

Tuesday, September 6, 2016 at 6:00 pm.

Committee Chair, John Fleming adjourned the meeting at approximately 6:30 p.m.

ADJOURN