

Eloise Community Redevelopment Agency Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda

Johnny and Freda Brooks Resource Center
710 Snively Avenue
Eloise, FL 33880

Monday, January 9th, 2023, 6:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER – Lee Castillo, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 6pm.

Attendance:

Advisory Committee Members Present:

Lee Castillo, Chairperson
Martha Paul
Eugenia Barton
Diane Rosebrough
Minerva Gil

Polk County BoCC Staff Present

Delia Jouppi, CRA Manager
Kimberly Gonzalez, Certified Code Investigator
Tonya Long, Code Investigator Supervisor
William Evans, Code Enforcement Investigator
Boris Rodriguez, Recreation Coordinator II
Elizabeth Voss, Deputy County Attorney

Polk County Sheriff's Office Staff

Deputy Jordan Owens
Sgt Shanon Gaylord

Public

Hope Musselwhite
Jody Teal
Lydia Mancillas
Rosa Chavez
Maria Barraza
Jesus Gil

No. 1 on Agenda: Welcome to Stakeholders - The board introduced their selves to everyone.

No. 2 on Agenda: Requests from the General Public and opportunity to be heard –

One resident brought up issues on 2nd Street, there is lot of trash, cats, and chickens on this street. The trash was moved from one side of the street to the other side. Code enforcement said they already have 2 cases on that, they are waiting on abatement, and the vendor should be getting out there in the next 30 to 45 days to clean it up. The resident said she was told this would be handled by Thanksgiving and nothing happened. Then Christmas came and went plus the New Year, and nothing has still happened. Code enforcement said it can take up to 90 days to get the process completed. They did a clean up about 6 months ago on the vacant lot and they noticed there are dozens of free-range chickens. Codes can do

nothing about the chickens unless someone can tell them who has the chicken coops. Because Codes can site someone, and the person can say they are not theirs and that the chickens belong to someone else or say they are free roaming. When they were there with the cleanup, they also noticed when it was getting dark the chickens were flying up into the trees to roost so they might be no-one's chickens. There is a little old man that has about 50 cats that run free. Code Enforcement let them know it is an Animal Control issue. Deputy Owens told them to call the Sheriff's office for animal control. They brought up that animal control does not trap them that a resident must trap them, but they might have the traps you can get from them. If you trap the cats Animal Control will come, get them. You must make sure you feed and water them in the trap until Animal Control comes and picks them up.

Jesus wants an update to the landscaping because it has been a month since he brought up, he wanted Jay Jarvis's information, gave him e-mail address. He also seen that they have signs now along one of the parcels that is on Snively Avenue, but he doesn't see the update to the corner of Snively and 17. Codes said they are waiting to get the information from back from the Sheriff's department then they will tackle that portion as well. He just sees more debris being added, Codes acknowledge it by saying every day.

No. 3 on Agenda: Approval of June 13, 2022, Meeting Minutes – Eugenia asked for the meeting minutes to be sent out earlier. Said the other CRA Managers sent them out a week in advance.

No 4 on Agenda: Approval of September 9, 2022, Meeting Minutes

No 5 on Agenda: Approval of December 5, 2022, Get Together Minutes

Motion to approve minutes was put in by Lee Castillo, Minerva second and all were in favor.

No. 6 on Agenda - Old Business

Delia said none because Mike and Jay couldn't make it. But I want to let you know what Mike has said they were a few months away from in house staff starting work on the soccer field and the volleyball court. He also said sorry that two of the debris sites for the hurricane were in County Parks and they are closing them down, so they have to get the repairs to the sites quickly which is putting them behind on some projects, but he will let us know when they are ready to go out there again.

Minerva asked what has been done on the restrooms, it looks like all they have done is paint. Delia said correct, Mike said he was reaching out to our Facilities staff to see where the bids for the restrooms stand for the renovation. Delia reminded them as Mike had said in the September meeting minutes a lot of our contractors are not sticking to their bids, so they must go back out and rebid. So, they have had to go back out to rebid, now that they have done that, they are putting in requisitions which I am approving the minute I get them, so then they can go buy the equipment. The painting of the restrooms was the fast and easiest to get done. Minerva wanted to clarify that Parks is doing an entire renovation on the restrooms and Delia said yes.

Jesus asked if we have any plans as to what that would look like. Delia said no I don't know anything on that it would be a Mike Calendar questions and he will be here next quarter.

We just told them to renovate it and update it. Elizabeth said we can ask Mike and have him bring any information on it.

No. 7 on Agenda: New Business

Lee Castillo asked if anyone had any new business, Sheriff's office – Deputy Jordan Owens said the Crime report, some of the crimes that were reported since the last meeting in December. We had an initiative given from the Chief to search for any graffiti anywhere and cover it. So we were taking recourse on that and we found graffiti down by the railroad tracks they had a mail box that someone painted which had derogatory comments to law enforcement so that got painted over. That is the only crime in Eloise since the last meeting.

Lee Castillo asked for new news on the center. Boris Rodriguez said Happy New Years to everyone. The holiday party that they just had in December they had over 70 people here. Informed everyone of a Valentine's dance on Friday February 10th from 6 pm to 8pm for all the communities in this area. Hopefully everyone comes out and joins us. We have financial classes starting in February on the 1st, which is a Wednesday, the 4 Wednesdays of the month from 6pm to 8pm. We just added a new instructor for the afterschool program to add a new art class to the program. Minerva asked when the financial classes begin, and Boris said February 1st and every Wednesday after for 4 straight weeks. The flyer is right outside hanging up. Lee Castillo confirmed the time was from 6pm to 8pm, Boris said yes mam. Jesus questioned about the dates, that it starts on the 1st and what after then. Boris said yes and every Wednesday after that. Jesus asked what hours for the afterschool program Boris said 3:30 pm to 5pm.

Lee Castillo does Codes have anything for us or to address. Tonya Long replied no I think we have addressed everything earlier that we had.

Lee Castillo brought up: The last manager we had said something about beautification about putting out plants. That the CRA could give the businesses some money so together we could put out beautification plants on the businesses. What would be the update on that? Nobody ever came back on it. Elizabeth asked like a grant program, like come up with a grant program. She said that they had said that they use CRA money in some areas to do that. Delia said for the beautification of the businesses in your CRA area. Elizabeth said like facade updates, like an application process. She said she doesn't have details on that, but she knows other CRAs around here do that sort of thing. We do have a Beautification Strategy Plan in our CRA plan so it just a matter of working out the details and bringing that back to you for a recommendation and sending it the Board to approve. It would be some sort of selection process; you must apply. She then asked if any of the businesses in the CRA would be interested in this? Lee Castillo said she is not sure but if we draft a letter or something, she would be glad to go talk to the business and see what they would say. She thinks if we would put some plants along the fences of the businesses it would look a lot better. Elizabeth clarified if they were talking just planting plants vs the facade improvement program? Lee Castillo said they all have fences, the chain link fences and putting in shrubbery. Elizabeth said the issue which we are not sure if it is an issue, this would be a Jay Jarvis thing to answer because the right of way extends out a lot further than you would think. Where the fence line hits, I am not the transportation manager who would know this stuff of the top of his head but typically the County does not want to put a lot of money into landscaping if it is in the right of way for a

variety of reasons, so we need to speak to that. If we are talking about in the right of way that is one thing or if we are talking about giving a business owner money to update their properties to make them look beautiful that is a completely different story. So, you are talking about up along the property boundary within the right of way? Lee Castillo said yes, they have some plants like bushes, just like over here in front of their fence but just at the entrance. Elizabeth said we have to add this to Jay's list because he can discuss this more in detail and discuss it more intelligently than we could. Just from the little bit she knows the County does not like to put a whole lot of plants in the right of way, but she doesn't want to speak for Jay. This is something we can have him talk to about this in the next meeting if they would like more information on this. Lee Castillo said yes, this would help the scenery of the area, instead of seeing all those trucks over there and over here. Elizabeth said doesn't see an issue from the CRA standpoint but from the County Road and Drainage Division standpoint. How they feel about that. Delia said it would be the upkeep, who would upkeep it? Jesus said so the business you are talking about is Phoenix, so why wouldn't Phoenix be part of that since, so since, if we are spending CRA money it is their business. Lee Castillo answered well because it is for beautification. But that money could be used otherwise, if Phoenix would be held liable/responsible since it is their side vs using community money for that. Minerva answered this is trying to help the community look better. Delia made clear that the County cannot make any company do anything to their property. Jesus said so we can get the County to clean that up. Delia said that is what I am saying is no, unless codes get involved, we cannot tell them you have to plant plants to make this area look good. As the CRA we could say we are interested, asked Elizabeth if she was correct on this. But as they County we cannot tell Phoenix to plant plants. Elizabeth said this comes back to what are we talking about does this come back to beautification within the right of way which is the County's property and so the County would have the final say on that. Verses the other side of the boundary which is private property, and we can't tell private property to do something unless we want to so some sort of grant or something like that where you apply, and we will give you the money to go put plants and things like that. So, we are talking about two different things so it sounds like you want to do something in the right of way side and beautifying the right of way which again from the CRA perspective that is totally doable, we can spend those funds, but it is going to be a bigger discussion with the Roads and Drainage Division on how they feel about that. Eugenia Barton said that she thinks the plants are on the right of way. Phoenix planted all those plants, but the problem is they can't keep them watered and nobody wants to weed them, clean them up because they are right in the road. When they are trying to do that, it is dangerous, you know that is the right of way. Where the plants are now is the right of way, she does see one little lady trying to weed them, but it is very dangerous to be right there on that road. Elizabeth asked if there were specific spots in mind that they would like to see or are you talking from the light down, probably. Lee Castillo said she was mostly talking about mostly on the trucking side, the trucking business between 6th and 7th Street. Eugenia said they had some there too, but they let them die.

Hope asked if we could use some money to get a new sign for the Resource Center, right here, like a digital one like everywhere else. Because this one out here, #1 it is not safe for them to be going out and putting letters and stuff up in there. And #2 it is old and dilapidated, I think we need a new one to where we can, where everybody can see it and he can run more than one meeting on there at a time, everything can be run across there. It can run across there so if Diane has things for school, Boris can put it up, they can put things up for the center and everything. If we can get a digital sign, please. Minerva can the CRA pay for this? Elizabeth said she would have to investigate it. Elizabeth asked Boris if they have been looking into updating the sign for the Community Resource Center. Boris answered we don't

have money for it in that sense, but the sign will benefit the community because like what was said we could run many things at one time on a digital sign, like the CRA meeting and any other meetings that are happening. Hope said as of right now it is weather damaged and not safe. It can run it all the time before the meetings, so everyone is not like hey when is this and this and that. He could run it on there, they could see it, and more people could come. Elizabeth said we can report back on this at the next meeting.

No. 8 on the Agenda: Set 4 meetings for this year. Minerva, do we pick the dates of our meeting.

Delia said we have: March 6th, March 13th, March 20th, and March 27th. The Advisory Board picked March 6th at 6pm. Delia verified, and the Advisory Board said yes, they want them on the first Monday of the month.

Delia said OKAY, we have June 5th, September 4th, and December 4th. Minerva said that September 4th is Labor Day weekend. Eugenia asked if there were any graduations in June, people asked when the last day of school is. Diane said she thinks the last day of school is the 30th of May, they come back after Memorial Day and she wants to say May 31st. Delia asked if they wanted to keep June 5th, Minerva said yes, we can keep the 5th and the next meeting we can relook at that. Delia said in September the 4th is a Holiday and we would have a problem with September 11th and 18th because of Public Hearing, so can we move September's meeting to the 5th a Tuesday? The Advisory Board agreed.

Diane looked at the school calendar and said the last day of school for children is May 31st.

No. 9 on the Agenda: Reminder about next Advisory Committee Meeting

CRA Meeting: at the Johnny and Freda Brooks Resource Center

Delia verified again that the next one will be at 6pm on March 6th, here. And then June 5th, September 5th, and December 4th.

Financial report: Diane asked as far as the second page we are not discussing the second page at all. Delia said it was up to them if they would like to discuss it and if you have any questions for me on it. I am not sure what Alain did with it, I just read he gave a financial report. This is our financial report and right now you are due to Sunset in 2030. So, we need to start look at things to spend that money on, which you gave us two things today. So, we will find out from Jay about putting landscaping down on the trucking business side and the digital signage for here, that would be through the CRA money so that will use some of it. Minerva asked when they had till to use this money, Delia answered until 2030 we sunset so we really need to spend it by 2029.

Lee Castillo brought up the playground at the park, but nothing has any cover on the top. She went to Winter Haven all their children's playgrounds have covers above their equipment giving it shade. Is there any way possible we could do something like that because the parents take their children to the park during the summer, I know the plastic or metal playground equipment is hot. Elizabeth said one of the strategies is recreation, open space, and enhancing existing parks. But aren't we working on that right now, or is that different, is that what Mike is working on. Advisory Board said we are talking the children's area; we are talking about the toddler and little children's playground. Elizabeth said from a funding standpoint yes, it is doable. We need to loop in Mike again on this. Hope said if they are upgrading the park shouldn't be included in that. Delia said no, they didn't bring it up before, they brought up the

basketball area, soccer field, volleyball, and the bathrooms. We can bring it up to Mike on that one.

Delia said that is good things anything you can think of like that, that is good things to add to your community. Lee Castillo said since we need to use the money we might as well use it here for the good of the community

No. 10 on Agenda; Adjourned at 7 pm

Eugenia made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Minerva seconded it and rest of Advisory Board said I.