

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY OF STUART
COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT BOARD HELD IN CITY HALL, 121
SOUTHWEST FLAGLER AVENUE, STUART, FLORIDA ON TUESDAY,
APRIL 6, 2010**

Those present: Frank Wacha, Jr., Chairman
David Collier, Vice Chairman
Patty Henderson
Gene Rifkin

Those absent: Samia Ferraro
Johnnie Bell
Pete Walson

Also present: Dan Hudson, City Manager
Teresa Lamar-Sarno, CRA Coordinator
Murriah Dekle, Project Planner II

I. CALL TO ORDER: Chairman

Chairman Wacha called the meeting to order at 4:12PM

II. ROLL CALL: Secretary

Those answering roll call and others present are referenced above.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: March 16, 2010

MOTION:

SECOND:

Motion carried

The board did not have a quorum therefore they could not approve the minutes.

Public Comments:

Sivan Fraser a student at FAU and part-time Stuart News correspondent and asked for the board's comments on the new marina and how it captures the essence of Stuart.

Gene Rifkin said she had not heard much from the Downtown Business owners but it seems very busy and the size of the marina area is in keeping with "small town Stuart".

David Collier said he didn't think it was intended to boost downtown businesses but thought it was a marina that brought the larger boats which would increase shopping in the area and it is doing exactly what the city thought it would do.

Chairman Wacha thought it has been beneficial and they did a great job developing it and said it added a great deal to that section of the CRA.

Patty Henderson said it was a very nice restaurant and the only concern might be the parking. She said that the restaurant had a great variety of people there and dogs and said it was a very good addition.

Board Comments:

Patty Henderson invited everyone to an event in Stuart an Old Fashioned Family Fish Fry to benefit the Environmental Studies Center.

David Collier said that he went to the FEC Amtrak meeting and the meeting went quite well until the end with the discussion of insurance. He thought that might be a deal breaker.

Gene Rifkin said she attended all of the meetings ten years ago which ended in no funding and said this is more of a top down effort and if they don't come to some kind of agreement there will be many cities greatly disappointed.

1. MPO Enhancement Grant Information

Presentation: Boyd Lawrence, Planner with Martin County MPO

Public Comments: None

Board Comments:

Gene Rifkin asked if the Recreational Trails Program might be used to enhance Haney Creek.

Dan Hudson said they would look into it.

David Collier said his experience is that these kinds of experiences sprout from the minds of staff. He asked Sam Amerson if he has projects on the list that have been brought forward.

Sam Amerson said they have such as Phase I of Dixie Highway and they are going to bid for Phase II and the crosswalk enhancement.

2. Riverwalk Shade Structure

Presentation: Teresa Lamar-Sarno, CRA Coordinator

Public Comments: None

Board Comments:

Gene Rifkin asked if there is a guarantee on the structure.

Teresa Lamar-Sarno said the fabric is guaranteed for 10 years from fading and the structure for 20 years.

Gene Rifkin asked why they didn't use a structure that would protect from rain.

Teresa Lamar-Sarno said that this was what the RFP went out for.

Chairman Wacha asked how much shade it would have.

Gene Rifkin said she is seeing a lot of this style in areas but was concerned that it might become dated.

David Collier thought it was great.

Patty Henderson said she liked it.

3. Downtown Liquor License

Presentation: Murriah Dekle, Project Planner II

Public Comments: None

Board Comments:

Gene Rifkin thought it was a good compromise and very defensible.

David Collier agreed and thought they should get it accomplished.

Gene Rifkin clarified that there would be no exceptions.

Staff Comments:

Dan Hudson gave an update on the 2011 Budget Schedule and said that he and Dottie Zaharako have changed their mind on the way to handle the upcoming budget. He said they were seeing a trend of a declining population in the state and school system and that they need to re-think their strategy and make more material changes.

David Collier asked about the healthcare costs.

Dan Hudson said they have been negotiating with providers and have already reduced the level of benefits.

David Collier said when they sort through the budget they need to look at operating costs to see if they want to sacrifice programs and not lose the momentum that staff has created.

Dan Hudson then gave an update on the government center and ball field and said he thought everyone shared his disappointment that no action was taken.

