

APPROVED
MINUTES
NORTHWEST PROGRESSO – FLAGLER HEIGHTS
REDEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD
FORT LAUDERDALE
100 NORTH ANDREWS AVENUE
8th FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
JANUARY 25, 2012 – 3:30 P.M.

Cumulative Attendance

<u>Members Present</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>May 2011 - April 2012</u>	
		<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Steve Lucas, Chair	P	8	0
Ella Phillips, Vice Chair	A	6	2
Jessie Adderley	P	7	1
Sonya Burrows	P	7	0
Ron Centamore	P	8	0
Nate Ernest-Jones	P	6	2
Alan Gabriel	A	6	2
Mickey Hinton	P	7	1
Brice Lambrix	P	7	1
Yvonne Sanandres	P	6	2
Doug Sterner	P	7	1
Scott Strawbridge	P	5	0
John Wilkes	A	5	3
Samuel Williams	P	6	2

Currently there are 14 appointed members to the Board, which means 8 would constitute a quorum.

It was noted that a quorum was present at the meeting.

Staff

Alfred Battle, Director, CRA
Sandra Doughlin, Clerk III, CRA
Renee Cross, Transportation and Mobility Department
Heslop Daley, Traffic Engineer
Bob Wojcik, CRA
Mina Samadi, CRA
Barbara Hartmann, Recording Secretary, Prototype, Inc.

Communications to City Commission

Motion made by Mr. Ernest-Jones, seconded by Mr. Strawbridge, that the CRA Advisory Board fully supports the Flagler Village Civic Association's efforts to pursue streetscape enhancements to NE 3rd Avenue and North Andrews

Avenue; and to incorporate certain amendments to the proposed layout, including the undergrounding of all utilities or the provision of sleeves for future undergrounding; and that comments on the streetscape enhancements be forwarded to the CRA Board and the appropriate County agencies. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

I. Call to Order / Roll Call

Chair Lucas called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m. and roll was called. It was noted a quorum was present at the meeting.

II. Approval of Minutes from December 28, 2011

Motion made by Mr. Sterner, seconded by Ms. Burrows, to approve the minutes of the December 28, 2011 meeting.

In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

Presentation

III. Dan Marino Foundation

Chair Lucas advised that this presentation was for informational purposes: as part of the Development Review Committee (DRC) process, the presenter is encouraged to solicit feedback on the project from various local advisory bodies.

Mary Partin, CEO of the Dan Marino Foundation, explained that the project to be presented is the Dan Marino Foundation Vocational College. The Foundation itself is 20 years old and has provided over \$34 million to organizations that support services for children with special needs. The Foundation has committed the same resources to the Vocational College, which will provide post-secondary education for young people with special needs.

Rick Powers, Architect, stated that the campus for the Vocational College would be located in a building on the corner of Andrews Avenue and 4th Street, as well as a parcel of land just north of this corner. The existing building currently uses its third floor as office space and would use the first and second floors for the College. He showed renderings of improvements to the building, including repainting and addition of canopies over the sidewalks.

The first floor of the building would serve as student union space, with a music room, café, fitness center, and other facilities. The second floor would include educational facilities, including an art studio, classrooms, and a career center. A courtyard will be located in the rear of the building.

Mr. Powers noted that the Foundation has met with the local neighborhood association, which supports the project.

Rebecca Bradley, Landscape Architect, stated that the Foundation will address the street frontage on 4th Street and Andrews Avenue, the existing surfaced parking lot behind the building, and the larger detached parking lot. The existing parking lot behind the building will be made into an enclosed, secure courtyard with outdoor classroom space, gardening plots, and other amenities. Parking and flex space will be available at the detached lot, which can be used for larger outdoor events.

Mr. Sterner asked how many students are initially expected to enroll in the Vocational College. Ms. Partin said 60 students are expected in the first 18 months, with an eventual enrollment of 250 to 400. Not all students will be based on the proposed campus; she estimated that no more than 100 students would be on the campus at any given time.

Mr. Powers added that both parcels would be completely enclosed, including the parking lot. The fence is still in the design stages and is expected to include a low wall and an aluminum fence. Ms. Partin noted that because only 1% of the students drive, most of the parking will be for staff.

Mr. Ernest-Jones asked what attracted the Foundation to propose the campus in Downtown Fort Lauderdale. Ms. Partin said the students are young people who want to be independent, and some would live in nearby apartments to transition into independence. The Downtown facility is also close to many of the Vocational College's partner agencies and provides many opportunities for transportation.

Motion made by Mr. Strawbridge, seconded by Mr. Centamore, that the Board give a whole-hearted endorsement to this project to the DRC Committee and any and all parties that are reviewing it. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

Ms. Partin estimated that the College would be ready for fall programming by fall 2013.

Discussion Items

IV. Streetscape Improvements – NE 3rd Avenue and N. Andrews Avenue

Chair Lucas recalled that at a previous meeting, a proposal had been made for streetscape improvements at this location. This led to a series of meetings with Transportation and Mobility Department Staff as well as with County Staff. He

referred the Board members to conceptual drawings of the existing and proposed streetscapes, explaining that the Board's input had been requested on the drawings.

Renee Cross of the Transportation and Mobility Department advised that the plan is to take the proposals to the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). In addition, the existing trafficways document would require an amendment in order to change a cross-section of the streetscape. She advised that in February, Transportation and Mobility will meet with these agencies to hear their input on the proposed cross-sections.

Chair Lucas added that the proposals were presented to the Flagler Village Civic Association the previous week. The presentation resulted in unanimous approval, although it was noted that the Civic Association had some questions regarding the proposed lighting package, the material used to construct sidewalks, the kind of trees to be used, and other considerations that would make the proposal consistent with nearby streetscapes.

He stated that if the members took copies of the cross-sections home with them, they could send their comments to Mr. Battle, who would send them on to Transportation and Mobility. The cross-sections would be revised as necessary before being included in the County's corridor application. Final designs would be shown to the Board at a later time.

Funding for the proposed streetscapes could come from FDOT or Community Development Block Grants (CDBGs); however, the initial seed funding for architecture and engineering could be provided by the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) and/or the CRA if they approved the project.

Vanessa Santiago, representing the Flagler Village Civic Association, said the project is seeking various approval levels with the City, including the Board's approval. It will then be determined what steps are necessary to seek County approval.

Mr. Powers, Architect, who had shown the proposed streetscape improvements to the Board at a previous meeting, advised that a subcommittee had come together following this and other neighborhood meetings to focus on putting the concepts together. It was determined that the project would go through a phased approach, starting on primary arteries and dealing with secondary streets at a later time.

Mr. Strawbridge stated that he would also like to see more information on the lighting package. He recommended that any existing overhead utilities be

undergrounded in the area of the improvements; if this was not done, he suggested that sleeves could be put in place for future undergrounding.

Mr. Sterner asked how the elimination of an auxiliary lane in one area would accommodate turning traffic. Heslop Daley, Traffic Engineer, said cars would still be able to turn at the intersection in question. A traffic study would be part of the overall project.

Mr. Sterner asked how the plan would affect the WAVE, noting that the project would narrow the roadway. Ms. Cross said this was not seen as an issue, as the WAVE's rails would be in the lane of traffic.

Allen Hooper, who had made the original presentation with Mr. Powers, recalled that one objective of the project had been the attraction of more retail and neighborhood development. Once the County approval process is underway, he asked the Board to assist the Civic Association in addressing zoning in the area in order to bring in retail and parking exemptions.

Mr. Strawbridge observed that lowering the speed limit can improve the movement of traffic, and noted that removing a turn lane may present less of an issue in a lower speed zone.

Mr. Battle suggested that the Board could send a communication to the City Commission in the form of a motion showing their continued support of the conceptual plans for Andrews Avenue and 3rd Avenue. He explained that the City Commission would see this communication at their February 7 meeting in advance of the January 2012 minutes.

Ms. Burrows asked how implementation of the WAVE would work with off-street parking, such as whether or not a pedestrian would have to cross through moving traffic to access the WAVE during peak hours. Ms. Cross said there could be a center platform the road for this access. She reiterated that there are still several issues to be worked through regarding placement of the WAVE in traffic.

Chair Lucas asked if the streetscape designs were currently "working around" some of the areas where the WAVE would stop. Ms. Santiago said part of the original process involved designing streetscapes in areas where the WAVE was not planned; the plans would then be adjusted accordingly depending upon the placement of the WAVE system.

Motion made by Mr. Ernest-Jones, seconded by Mr. Strawbridge, that the CRA Advisory Board fully supports the Flagler Village Civic Association moving forward in their efforts to pursue streetscape enhancements to NE 3rd Avenue

and North Andrews Avenue, incorporating certain amendments to the proposed layout, inclusive of undergrounding all utilities and lighting as well as providing sleeves for undergrounding those utilities, and that comments be forwarded to the CRA Board and the appropriate County agencies. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

V. Director's Report

Mr. Battle provided information packets for the Board members, including the DDA Newsletter and other documents.

A free business education seminar will be held at Carter Park on February 8, 2012, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. The seminar, which focuses on internet marketing, is typically well-attended.

Mr. Battle continued that the Sistrunk project is over 70% complete, and is expected to conclude in June 2012. Work is still being done to open streets in Flagler Village by the end of February; Florida Power & Light (FPL) must remove some utility poles in order for the road to be safely traveled.

The grocery store project on NW 7 Avenue is roughly 7% complete: a building has been demolished and underground site work has been completed, including foundations. Save-a-Lot anticipates being in their building by the end of the year.

VI. Communication to CRA Board

It was determined that the **motion** regarding the streetscape project would be sent as a communication to the City Commission.

VII. Old / New Business

None.

VIII. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

[Minutes prepared by K. McGuire, Prototype, Inc.]