

**COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD MEETING
February 15, 2011 – 7:00 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM – 8TH FLOOR
100 N. ANDREWS AVENUE**

	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Board Members</u> <u>Cumulative</u> <u>From 10/10</u>	
			<u>(P)</u>	<u>(A)</u>
Erika Baer	P		4	1
Margaret Birch	P		4	1
P.J. Espinal		A	2	3
James Currier		A	3	2
Nadia Locke	P		3	2
Donald Karney	P		5	0
Wendy Gonsher	P		4	1
Jeannine Richards	P		5	0
David Tilbury		A	3	2
Richard Whipple	P		4	1
Earl Bosworth	P		1	0
Helen Hinton	P		1	0
Kenneth Staab	P		1	0

Staff Present:

Angelia Basto, Administrative Aide
Susan Batchelder, Assistant Manager of Housing & Community Development
Karen Reese, Economic Development Department

Margaret A. Muhl, Recording Secretary

As of February 15, 2011, there are 13 appointed members to the Board, which means 7 members would constitute a quorum.

Call to Order

Chair Donald Karney called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 p.m. followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Roll call was taken and a quorum was present.

Board and Staff Introductions

Staff members present this evening were introduced by Ms. Batchelder.

Chair Donald Karney proceeded to read a letter from the Board's previous Chair, Avery Dial. Mr. Dial is now serving on the Aviation Advisory Board.

Introduction of New Board Members

Chair Donald Karney proceeded to introduce the new members of this Board.

Earl Bosworth stated he was President of ArtServe, and previously was Assistant Director of Broward County's Cultural Division. He is also a published songwriter in Nashville, TN. He has also worked for the State of Florida and Ford Motor Company. He gave a brief summary regarding his family. He stated he was looking forward to working with this Board.

Kenneth Staab stated he lived in District No. 1 and has been in government service since 1973. He listed the various agencies he had worked with. He stated he was happy to serve on this Board.

The Board Members proceeded to provide a brief history of themselves.

Communication to the City Commission

Chair Donald Karney stated that he wants to ask the Commission if they need this Board's input regarding rickshaws since they approve or disapprove licenses for such vehicles.

Ms. Gonsler stated this Board had previously recommended that the City review other areas with these types of vehicles and possibly tighten up the criteria. She asked if the individuals awarded licenses had obtained them.

Ms. Batchelder explained that one of this Board's function is to approve certificates of public convenience and conveyance. She briefly explained the process followed. She stated it took the Occupational License Division this long to get this before the City Commission. It is her understanding that the Code Department is in the process of revising the Ordinance.

Ms. Birch stated there was an article in the Sun Sentinel about the individual who is applying for the license. He stated he wants to have at least 17 rickshaws in operation. The Commissioners realized that the Ordinance needed to be revised. Also, someone had been hit by a rickshaw and there had been insufficient insurance.

Ms. Batchelder suggested that someone come and provide an update on this issue at the Board's March meeting. Chair Donald Karney agreed that should be done.

Mr. Whipple felt that meantime the same recommendation should be made by this Board to the City Commission that had previously been forwarded.

Motion made by Mr. Whipple and seconded by Ms. Birch to forward the previous communication made by this Board to the City Commission regarding rickshaws. Board unanimously agreed.

The previous communication was as follows:

By consensus, the Board recommends:

The City Commission take proactive steps to develop policy and regulations in regard to Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity in connection with the operation of pedicabs in the City, such as those which currently exist in the cities of Gainesville and Orlando, Florida.

The Board supports the use of pedicabs as an alternative "green" transportation, and as such has approved a limited number of permits. The permits were awarded to new companies in order to promote healthy business competition, as well as to the company presently operating pedicabs in the City.

Chair Donald Karney stated he wanted to let the City know that the Board recently toured the Performing Arts Center, and were engaged in cultural arts and tourism.

Motion made by Mr. Whipple and seconded by Ms. Gonsler to advise the City Commission that the Community Services Board had recently toured the Performing Arts Center and were engaged in cultural and tourism activities.

Ms. Gonsler stated that she would prefer to save communications to the City Commission for items they feel were urgent and necessary to bring to their attention versus communication providing updates. Ms. Birch agreed.

Ms. Baer asked how the City Commission knew what the Boards were doing. Ms. Birch explained that is the purpose of the Board's minutes. Ms. Hinton felt the City Commission needs to know what this Board is doing, but should not be advised of those activities in an urgent manner.

Chair Donald Karney stated that the Performing Arts Center brought in revenue for the City, and he felt the Commission should be aware that this Board is doing what they were charged to do.

Mr. Staab stated that the motion could be restructure into a more strategic plan that could help the City with economic development and tourism.

Ms. Baer suggested they state that while this Board is working on a strategic vision, they toured the Performing Arts Center and were continuing to work towards such goals.

Ms. Richards felt the words "tour or toured" were misleading because the more important part of what was accomplished was in hearing what the Center was doing for the City and the community.

Ms. Batchelder explained that "Communications to the City Commission" should be something the Board wants the Commission to take action on. By putting such information in the minutes, the item does not have to go through the chain of command. There are other ways to communicate this Board's activities to the City Commission. Reporting normal day-to-day activities would take away the importance of this type of communication.

Ms. Birch stated that the present City Commission does read the minutes of the Advisory Boards. Therefore, all discussions were being noted.

Mr. Bosworth stated that once the Board reviews the 20/20 Plan, they could make a motion regarding filing a report from this Board on the issue. This would inform the Commission that the Board was taking their duties seriously.

Ms. Batchelder stated that when the Board gets their strategic plan in place, they could request a workshop be held with the City Commission. She felt this would have a better effect.

The motion and second was withdrawn.

City Commission News

Ms. Batchelder advised that this evening the City Commission is holding the second hearing on the NSP III which is money for the Neighborhood Stabilization Program. The Commissioners determined that money needs to be spent in the Twin Lakes District and the Durrs Area District. An Amendment would be done to the Annual Action Plan to reflect that decision. If possible, an update would be provided tonight regarding that matter.

Ms. Batchelder explained this money comes from the government and is for the purchase of foreclosed properties so they could be rehabilitated and sold to low-income individuals. This stabilizes the neighborhoods. She explained that the Durrs Area District was located south of Sunrise and east of I-95.

Election of Vice Chair

Chair Donald Karney stated that the election of a Vice Chair had been tabled at last month's meeting. He asked if the Board wanted to proceed regarding this matter tonight or table the issue once again until all Board Members were present.

Ms. Baer suggested that the matter be once again tabled.

Ms. Batchelder stated the item was tabled due to the fact that Ms. Espinal was not present and might be interested. Since no one else appears to have an interest in serving in that capacity, the item would be tabled.

Motion made by Ms. Baer and seconded by Ms. Birch to defer the election of Vice Chair until the Board's next meeting. Board unanimously approved.

Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Mr. Staab and seconded by Ms. Hinton to approve the minutes of the January 11, 2011 meeting. Board unanimously approved.

Cultural Arts & Tourism Report

Karen Reese, Economic Development Department, stated that a tour was taken of the Performing Arts Center to stimulate ideas. E-mail addresses of members of the Performing Arts Center would be provided to staff for distribution to this Board.

Ms. Reese stated she would provide information to this Board every other month. She asked what topics the Board would like her to address in March and June.

Chair Donald Karney stated that the Board would be working on CDBG rankings in April.

Ms. Reese further stated that they are working on a project with the TMA to have cruise ship passengers brought into the City of Fort Lauderdale. They are attempting to work out destinations to where the tourists could be taken to. This City has the No. 1 cruise ship industry in the State and need to take advantage of that. She stated that an update would be provided to this Board in June on the project. She advised that the kick-off for the program would be July, 2011. She explained that a cruise line has to give permission for this type of project.

Ms. Reese asked for a timeline from Ms. Batchelder so an update could be scheduled.

Ms. Batchelder explained the process for 2011/2012 for CDBG funding has begun. Today, she was informed that the budget had not been passed for this year so monies may not be forthcoming. She will keep the Board advised. She added that the new proposal shows an estimate of 7.5% less monies for CDBG funding, and about 10% less for HOME projects. The 2011/2012 year begins October 1st and ends September 30, 2012. Planning meetings were held and many people attended. They received 27 applications for the CDBG funding. Two of those were ineligible. Presentations would be made at the Board's April meeting. The Board will rank the applications at the May meeting.

Ms. Batchelder stated that there was a lot of backlash regarding last year's meeting, especially in regard to conflicts of interest and how the Board decided to change the procedure for voting that night. She advised that this evening, the Board has to decide how they are going to vote on the applications. If there is anyone having a conflict of interest with any organization, the individual would be eliminated from the entire process.

The Board asked for some further explanation regarding conflict of interest. Ms. Batchelder stated that if there were any questions, let her know and they would check with the City Attorney. If there appears to be a conflict of interest and that individual wants to speak regarding an organization, they would have to speak from the floor and not the dais.

Ms. Reese asked if the Board wanted to wait and discuss cultural aspects in June.

Ms. Birch stated there should be a March meeting, and they could discuss the CDBG ranking process in more detail.

It was asked if the presentations could be broken up into two meetings such as March and April. Ms. Batchelder explained that the presentations have already been advertised for April.

Mr. Whipple suggested that Ms. Reese return at the Board's June meeting.

Ms. Basto explained that she could provide the Board with more information explaining conflicts of interest.

Ms. Reese stated she was not opposed to this Board letting her know their thoughts.

Ms. Baer stated that it was inferred that the City Commission felt this Board was slacking in work regarding cultural issues. She felt it would be beneficial for this Board to know what the City expects of them regarding cultural and tourism matters. She suggested that they think about sponsoring a community event.

Ms. Reese stated that when the County approached the City Commission about having a cultural and arts board, the Commission decided not to form a new board but to incorporate these matters into an existing Board. At that time, Commissioner Moore suggested the Community Services Board work on such events. There was no real mission stated and no monies were provided. This Board should decide where they want to go with these items. She is present to help this Board facilitate any ideas they might have in this regard.

Ms. Reese stated they have attended several of the County meetings. She is willing to work with this Board to come up with ideas, and she feels over time everything will fall into place.

Ms. Baer stated she wants to see some visible results.

Mr. Bosworth stated if they could show the economic impacts of the arts, they would have a better shot at getting things done. He believes there are ways to be creative.

Ms. Reese stated that she would return at the Board's March meeting for a brainstorming session.

Chair Donald Karney asked if Ms. Reese's office or the City has ever identified cultural/arts hotspots within the City.

Ms. Reese stated they support all of the arts.

Chair Donald Karney suggested they check with groups and individuals what this Board could do to help their programs grow.

Ms. Baer suggested sending out a questionnaire.

Ms. Batchelder stated the Board could express their thoughts in their communication to the City Commission. She continued stating this is an immediate path to the City Commission. She stated that she would check and report back how the Board could do such a thing.

Ms. Baer stated they could state that this Board desires to develop a questionnaire to send to different art groups and institutions to see how they could assist them.

Chair Donald Karney stated that this Board could work on such a questionnaire. Mr. Bosworth stated the questionnaire could be included in a newspaper or bulletin that has widespread distribution. An example mentioned was the Jazz Festival to be held this coming weekend.

Ms. Gonsler stated she is uncomfortable taking a survey of individuals regarding what they could do because there is an inferred idea they are here to help. She feels they need to narrow the scope of the questions so people understand they are seeking answers as a way to move forward, but there is no promise of financial assistance. She would also be uncomfortable sitting in a group to brainstorm questions because she wants them to be careful to not "bite off more than they can chew."

Chair Donald Karney explained he was thinking more along lines of how they could help groups overcome obstacles they were facing in the City. He was thinking how "cultural hotspots" could get rezoned to get them tax breaks.

Ms. Reese stated there is a Business First Program that surveyed companies. She reminded this Board that obstacles facing groups could not necessarily be solved by this Board, but would have to be handled by other City Departments. She suggested that someone from the Public Information Office come and speak and provide direction as to what this Board could do.

It was asked if statistics could be provided to this Board regarding challenges groups were facing.

Ms. Reese stated that Broward County could provide that information, and possibly someone from their office could come and speak before this Board.

Mr. Bosworth stated the County recently finished a 20/20 Plan that cost \$250,000. He stated that he provide that information.

Mr. Whipple stated that possibly they could target some of the tourist areas and see what is lacking in promoting their programs and/or events.

Mr. Bosworth stated they should review the 20/20 Plan since it was complete, then the Board could focus on the City's perspective. They received a 5% to 6% response and the survey could provide some ideas. He stated that ArtServ was willing to help in any way they could.

Ms. Reese felt that would be an excellent idea.

Ms. Reese stated there would be a joint meeting involving CDBG discussions in March, along with cultural discussion.

Mr. Staab asked if the City screens the applications in advance that are to be presented to the Board. Ms. Batchelder advised that staff screened all the

applications. She proceeded to explain the process that is followed. She added that organizations present at the May meeting were frustrated because incorrect information had been provided.

Other Business

None.

Good of the Order

Motion made by Ms. Hinton and seconded by Ms. Locke to adjourn the meeting. Board unanimously agreed.

Next Scheduled Meeting

There being no other business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret A. Muhl,
Recording Secretary