

COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY
ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
January 8, 2008

In attendance: Chairman Larry Cappleman, Charlie Roper, Joy Knight Tina Aldrich, John Kirby, Planner II Regina McGruder, City Manager Mike Bollhoefer, Economic Development Director Dolores Key, Executive Assistant to City Manager Andrea Vaughn, and Officer Anthony Dawkins, Commissioner Harold Boulter

Absent: Cora Fulmore, Bob Battaglia (excused)

Chairman Larry Cappleman called the meeting to order at 4:37 p.m.

Mr. Cappleman called for discussion of the November 13, 2007 meeting minutes and reviewed the revised minutes that were changed from the original minutes included in the agenda packets.

Charlie Roper made a motion to approve the above revised meeting minutes; seconded by John Kirby, Approved unanimously.

Larry Cappleman stated that the CRAB, shall consist of no less than seven and no more than nine members, of whom a majority shall reside, own property or operate a business located within the area of operation of the CRA. The CRAB shall have all duties and responsibilities as may be formally delegated by the CRA, but shall, at a minimum, are responsible for the preparation and implementation of the community redevelopment plan through its recommendations to the CRA.

Larry Cappleman stated that on December 13, 2007 he presented to the CRA the recent Board recommendation to fill the two vacant Board positions created by Bert Valdes to be replaced by Kelly Randall because of her knowledge and experience with the Board and City zoning codes, and Alan Haughey because of his construction background and knowledge, would replace Pam Stewart. He stated that at the meeting Agency Member Sharman indicated that with only two vacant seats for appointment, he would like to see a member from the District 4 serve on this Board. He asked the Board to reconsider their previous appointment recommendations and also include for consideration Jim Gustino.

Tina Aldrich stated that she stands by her original recommendations to the CRA because the selected applicants had the strongest qualifications and experience in redevelopment and new construction from the list of current Board Interest Forms received in agenda packet.

Larry Cappleman stated that the CRA has the authority to override the CRAB recommendations and appoint any applicant they wish to fill vacant Board positions.

Charlie Roper stated that he also would like it noted that he still stands by the original recommendations to the CRA and he suggested that the Board also make a recommendation to include Jim Gustino and let the CRA make the final recommendations for appointment to fill the vacant Board seats.

Charlie Roper made a motion that the Board recommend Kelly Randall, Alan Haughey and Jim Gustino to CRA to fill the vacant Board positions previously held by Bert Valdes and Pam Stewart, motion seconded by Tina Aldrich. Approved unanimously

Planner II Regina McGruder stated that the Horizon Oaks Neighborhood Entranceway Sign has been vandalized with graffiti and stated the sign was currently leaning to the side. She stated that she has contact the sign vendor regarding this matter and the sign vendor would recheck the sign to correct the problem. She stated the sign vendor indicated that any type of degreaser such as 409 or Bam degreasers would clean and remove the graffiti.

Officer Anthony Dawkins stated that because the sign had been vandalized he was required to take a police report and asked who owns the sign?

Mike Bollhoefer stated that the sign is currently in the City Right-of-Way therefore the City owns the sign.

Mike Bollhoefer stated that he is currently working with a volunteer group called Adrenaline and they are ready to move forward with the installation of the landscaping around the sign.

Commissioner Harold Bouler stated that once the landscaping is installed it may deter vandalism and future demanages to the sign.

Mike Bollhoefer stated that the City of Winter Garden is actively and aggressively working to attract more businesses to the Downtown area and resolve issues such as additional parking, more stores etc. He stated that because of the current state of the economy that is affecting all types of businesses big or small the Downtown Merchants will be scheduling a meeting to try and develop a plan that includes a consistent store operation hours and times.

Larry Cappleman stated that he would like to commend the City of Winter Garden for all of the City sponsored events that helped the Downtown area including such events as Light up Winter Garden, the annual Halloween event and others that bought increased business to the downtown area.

Mike Bollhoefer stated that the Parks and Recreation Department is currently working with merchants to solicit more vendors for City sponsored events.

Dolores Key stated that although the Fowler Mall is successfully up and running; the Downtown area attracts a different consumer. Most people when shopping like the mall because it allows

them to go from store to store, yet the Downtown area will attract the consumer seeking the specialty shops and dining. She stated that is why it is so critical for the Downtown Merchants to have a consistent set of operating store hours and times.

Charlie Roper stated some of the City of Winter Garden current Ordinances need to be revised and changed to allow more flexibility for a downtown night life.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Chairman Larry Cappleman

Planner II Regina McGruder