

COUNTYWIDE COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION TEAM (CCRT) MEETING

Monday, July 12, 1999
Planning, Zoning & Building, 2nd Floor Conference Room

MINUTES

Present at the Meeting:

Joanna Aiken, Solid Waste Authority
Nancy Buckalew, PZ&B Planning
Tim Granowitz, Parks & Recreation
Helen LaValley, PZ&B Zoning
Ray Loften, Lake Worth West Pilot Area
Stephen McGrew, Water Utilities
Jeanne Mills, PZ&B Planning
Ruth Moguillansky, PZ&B Planning
Pam Nolan, Economic Development
Kathleen Owens, PBC Fire Rescue
Greta von Unruh Cross, PZ&B Planning
Brenda Warren, Royal Palm Estates
Allen Webb, Engineering

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The meeting was called to order by *Ruth Moguillansky* at 10:05 A.M.

II. PROGRESS REPORTS - LAKE WORTH ROAD CORRIDOR

A. Status Report on Park Improvements:

Kenwood Park: *Tim Granowitz* reported that the Parks and Recreation Department is looking at other sites for acquisition in the area. The original contact person at PREM has left and another contact person will be provided. There is \$60,000 allocated for **Kenwood Park** and a budget request for additional funding for Parks in CCRT areas has been submitted to the BCC.

Sanders Park: *Mr. Granowitz* mentioned that additional fencing was installed to discourage people from cutting through the park, and defensive landscaping will be looked into. There is a \$240,000 budget request for approval by the BCC for next year. If approved, those monies would help to complete parks in the LWRC and the San Castle area.

Neelan Property: ERM will be contacted regarding permits to clear out exotic vegetation. Some fencing may be erected, and then pursue the rest of the plans from Parks and Recreation. This property has garbage being dumped on it.

Necessary Action: Other sites for a Kenwood Park will be looked at.

B. Status Report on Water Main Improvements in the Pilot Area, Kenwood Estates and Sub-Area 1:

Allen Webb reported that the public hearing for the paving and drainage portion of Urquhart Street is scheduled for July 27, with the contract for the sewer on the next phase. After receiving the Board's approval, contracts will be signed.

Allen Webb talked about **Sub Area 1**: Phase 1 Water Main bids were received on June 15, and there is an informational meeting on August 17, with a public hearing on August 24. If the bid is approved, contracts may be signed on that day, and construction will begin 30 - 45 days after signing.

Phase 2, Kirk Road & three streets off of Kirk: plans are complete and project is being worked on, along with the intersection improvement and additional lines that the Village of Palm Springs wants to put in. An interlocal agreement between Palm Beach County and the Village of Palm Springs was finalized by the Villlage; after the Village's Council approves it, the County will take the agreement to the BCC.

The contract on **Urquhart Street's** paving and drainage will go to the BCC after the July 27 Public Hearing, with construction starting in September. Plans are still being worked on Vermont Avenue. The Engineering Department is looking at acquiring an additional parcel of land, on the north side of **Maine Street**, to allow for a continuous right-of-way line.

Necessary Action: *Allen Webb* will notify *Ruth Moguillansky* when actual projects are to be started.

Sewer: *Stephen McGrew* stated that a majority of property owners in favor of the **Urquhart Street** sewer project was reached in February. Some properties have since changed hands, and the new owners are not in favor of the project. At the informational meeting, some attendees, especially residents on Sanders Street, were concerned about a sewer assessment. The most recent count is 34 opposed, 20 in favor, and five undecided. A letter was sent last Friday to the property owners stating that the project was not going to move forward, and the public hearing for the sanitary sewer was canceled. *Mr. McGrew* suggested that sanitary sewer be done via a block grant and do an assessment for the water.

Kenwood Estates: The 90% complete drawings were received, reviewed and returned to the consultant for finalization.

Necessary Action: *Stephen McGrew* is to meet with *Ruth Moguillansky* to further discuss the sewer issue.

C. Community Policing Status Report: There were no representatives from the Sheriff's Office attending this meeting.

Ruth Moguillansky summarized the Sheriff's comments from last month's CCRT meeting for *Ray Loften*, emphasizing the need for residents to call the PBSO hotline directly, and that *Captain Bieluch* needed more specifics than those that were provided from *Mr. Loften's* phone calls. *Mr. Loften* expressed concerns on what happens with his tenants on Vermont Street. His building is adjacent to the problem area and drug activity spills over onto his property. Owners of the crack houses tell their clients not to sell goods in front of the crack houses - to move down the street. As *Mr. Loften* does not live there, he cannot tell the

people to move on or call the authorities when drug deals are happening.

A general discussion ensued regarding Community Policing not being as active as it was at the beginning. *Joanna Aiken* said that Urquhart, Maine and Vermont Streets received the best of Community Policing as they were the original sites. *Ms. Aiken* and *Gail Vorpapel* meet every Friday with the PBSO for two hours. Approximately one and a half years ago, the Community Policing was disseminated from the Sheriff's Office, meaning that new deputies did not have to join a Policing Unit. Currently there is a road patrol, airports, etc.. The interest is not the same, with deputies getting interested in knowing the people in their community. Instead of working on a long-term solution, the PBSO wants to take care of the immediate problem by writing tickets and filling their monthly standard reports. *Captain Bieluch* and *Captain Gauger* are supportive of Community Policing, but until the people that are affected contact the correct people, and enough of the correct people, the situation will not change.

Greta von Unruh Cross indicated that the residents get together with their neighbors and work on the problem on the basic level. Government will not come in and solve their problem. Neighbors need to ask their CPU officers what they can do to help, such as taking pictures. Residents need to track what is needed in their community and devise a strategy to meet those needs. The Kenwood Neighborhood group will make a presentation to the Lake Worth West group, and possibly to the San Castle group. People who live in these communities need to be involved in outreach in their own neighborhood. *Mr. Loften* agreed, stating that in the past two months, several officers were interested in helping him with his neighborhood problems, but there was no direction given to them. It was suggested that *Mr. Loften* organize his neighborhood.

There was a short discussion on street lights and their importance in policing efforts. There are varying costs associated with street lights. One is the installation, but the main cost is their ongoing maintenance. Suggestions were provided that the \$9/month maintenance fee be split by neighbors. The maintenance fee shows up in a separate bill from FPL. *Ms. Moguillansky* offered to contact *Amy Harris* for a streetlight update. *Mr. Loften* had requested a 150-watt streetlight in front of one of his houses on Urquhart Street.

Ms. Aiken reminded CCRT members of the CPU hotline, which is a voice answering system that rings on *Captain Bieluch's* desk. Calls are answered in a timely manner by a lieutenant. The number is **688-4CPU**. *Steve McGrew* mentioned that GIS maps indicating crime areas were drawn up a few years ago. He suggested that the CPU hotline could be linked to an automatic updating of an area.

Necessary Action: *Ms. Moguillansky* will contact *Amy Harris* for a streetlight update on street lighting. A meeting is to be held with *Ray Loften* and *Captain Ed Bieluch* to discuss ongoing problems on Urquhart Street.

III. 1998-1999 CCRT ANNUAL REPORT TO THE BCC

Ruth Moguillansky reported that the CCRT Annual Report to the Board has been postponed. She indicated that the Board has already given direction to the CCRT to keep Lake Worth and San Castle as priority areas and, therefore, there is no need to go back to the Board at this time.

It is anticipated that the next CCRT Annual Report will be presented to the BCC in January 2000. That will be a good time to go to the Board with the team's recommendations on projects and/or activities that need to be undertaken for the Board's consideration.

IV. General Discussion

The rest of the agenda was canceled. CCRT members engaged in a general discussion about the San Castle Tour and the activities of the CCRT. *Ms. Moguillansky* reported that the bus tour of the San Castle area was successful. The goal of the tour was to show the Commissioners that the San Castle community needed help and that with their support, the CCRT could help. Drainage problems were mentioned, and funding for addressing the problem is being allocated into the budget. A brief discussion followed, with the consensus being that an advocacy tour was the proper place to point out the needs of the area. It was suggested by some members that another tour be planned at night in the rain to show the need for street lights and drainage improvements.

Ruth Moguillansky shared with the rest of the group the outcome of the last budget workshop and indicated that the CCRT was mentioned extensively. *Tim Granowitz* added that individual Commissioners are "buying in" with allocated funds, and that other Commissioners who do not have CCRT activity in their districts might be unaware of what the CCRT does, or what it can do to assist in their districts. Based on what was discussed at that workshop, it appears that seven million dollars will be divided up among the Commissioners to provide improvements based on the needs of each district.

Mr. Granowitz shared his concern about putting parks in areas where there is no Community Policing and this is an item that also needs to be discussed. *Greta von Unruh Cross* mentioned that a highly organized community group might be able to control a park also.

A general discussion then ensued about the need to have a brainstorming meeting to discuss some of these ongoing issues such as street lights, parks, areas that are being worked in, and the CCRT in general. *Kathy Owens* stated that it would be good to have a brainstorming session next month in replacement of the regular CCRT meeting. The meeting would focus on what the team members want to see happen in the CCRT neighborhoods and what things need to be changed or need to happen to really make a difference in these communities. *Joanna Aiken* stated that she had a contact person at FPL, and would see if that person would attend the special meeting. *Ms. Moguillansky* requested CCRT team members to suggest discussion items via e-mail for the brainstorming session. She will make the necessary arrangements for the meeting.

V. QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Ruth Moguillansky mentioned that a grant was applied for a street design project in San Castle. The project will address street lighting, traffic -related issues and crime. If the grant is awarded and the plan is developed, it might serve as a precedent for other projects in the County.

The Florida Neighborhood Conference will be held on October 1 - 2, 1999 in St. Petersburg. The cost is \$30.00 per person to register. Anyone interested should contact *Ms. Moguillansky* so arrangements can be made. *Ms. Moguillansky* distributed an informational handout from the Internet regarding the conference, and an application. The application deadline is August 15. The conference is sponsored by Neighborhoods USA.

VI. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Minutes prepared by

Nancy Buckalew, CCRT Secretary

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