

DAVIE COMMUNITY RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD
AUGUST 24, 2004

1. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:17 p.m. Present were Sandra Amaya, Norm Blanco, Jason Curtis, Mike Holderfield, Charlie Miller, Karen Stenzil-Nowicki (arrived at 8:04 p.m.) and Sharon Zane. Also in attendance were Assistant Town Clerk Barbara McDaniel, Budget and Finance Director Bill Underwood (departed at 7:40 p.m.), Town Engineer Larry Peters (arrived at 7:35 p.m. and departed at 7:57 p.m.) and Secretary Angie Salinas recording the meeting. Pat Cardella, Donna Mongston and Kitty Preziosi were absent.

2. SELECTION OF CHAIR

Later in the meeting Ms. McDaniel opened the nominations for Chair.

Mr. Curtis nominated Mr. Blanco, seconded by Ms. Stenzil-Nowicki. As there were no other nominations, the nominations were closed. In a voice vote, with Ms. Cardella, Ms. Mongston and Ms. Preziosi being absent, all voted in favor of Mr. Blanco as Chair. **(Motion carried 7-0)**

3. SELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

Later in the meeting, Chair Blanco nominated Ms. Stenzil-Nowicki, seconded by Mr. Miller. As there were no other nominations, the nominations were closed. In a voice vote, with Ms. Cardella, Ms. Mongston and Ms. Preziosi being absent, **(Motion carried 7-0)**

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: July 27, 2004

Mr. Blanco made a motion, seconded by Mr. Curtis, to approve the minutes of the July 27, 2004 meeting. In a voice vote, with Ms. Cardella, Ms. Mongston and Ms. Preziosi being absent, all voted in favor.

5. OLD BUSINESS

5.1 Community Chest

Mr. Blanco wondered how residents would feel if they knew how much of their tax dollars were going to charities. He stated that organizations would ask Council for funds and would not have to show proof of the organization or what the money was being used for. Mr. Blanco thought the Community Chest was a good idea.

Mr. Miller agreed that if the Town was handing out money it should know where it was going and what it was being used for. Mr. Underwood stated that it was his understanding that the Town had asked organizations how many people in the Town they help, what their financial situation was and how they would use the money. He added that the organizations that requested money seemed to be the same ones that requested in previous years. He said that there might have been a few new organizations added.

Ms. McDaniel asked if the Budget Advisory Board had discussed the issue of the Community Chest. Mr. Underwood answered that they had discussed it and agreed that they would like to look into the Coral Springs Community Chest a little more. He added that they had set some criteria for a Davie Community Chest including that they would like to help the very young and the elderly and they would like to have the organizations either located within Davie or help a substantial number of residents in Davie.

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Mr. Curtis asked Mr. Underwood if he thought the Community Chest would be feasible and actually help tax payers save money. Mr. Underwood stated that the Town had

always provided funding to organizations. He said that if the Community Chest were to happen, he suggested setting strict criteria for the organizations and a ranking system. Mr. Underwood stated that by setting strict regulations, you could weed out the organizations that really need the money and could actually use it to help the community. He added that ranking each organization would be a lot of work for the organizations and the Town and/or Committee. Mr. Curtis stated that the idea was to take the Community Chest out of the Town's hands. Mr. Underwood agreed and the Community Chest's Board could hold their own fund raising activities.

Mr. Blanco stated that if it was taken away from the Town, it could not be considered political. The Community Chest would be completely out of the Town's hands. Mr. Underwood suggested using criteria from other organizations and putting together something that this Community Chest could use.

Mr. Underwood questioned how a person got onto their Board, if the City appointed them. Ms. McDaniel answered that the City did not appoint the members. Mr. Blanco responded that the former Vice-Mayor of Coral Springs was the first Board member.

Mr. Curtis stated that he thought there was a group of people who thought something needed to be done and started the Community Chest. Mr. Blanco suggested that there might have been a reach out to the community to get business owners to join and become informed about the Chest.

Mr. Underwood stated that the Town not having to spend money on funding the organizations would be good. Mr. Miller informed that Coral Springs still funded the Board with a \$50,000 grant. Mr. Underwood added that by funding \$50,000 to the Board, the Town would be saving approximately \$220,000.

Mr. Curtis suggested that some residents may not agree with certain organizations that the Town was giving funding to. He added that the idea was to take the funding decisions away from the Town and possibly lower the tax bill. Mr. Blanco said that through the Town, if an organization asked for a certain amount of money, they usually received it and the Community Chest would not work that way. He added that the Community Chest would only give them what it could and the decision of the Board would be final.

Mr. Miller questioned the rationale of choosing only the young and old as organizations to be funded. Mr. Underwood answered that the Budget Advisory Committee wanted to help those least able to assist themselves.

Ms. McDaniel asked Mr. Underwood who would be working on setting up the Community Chest setup. Mr. Underwood informed the Board that the Budget Advisory Board wanted the Town to do something. He added that the Board had voted to not fund any charitable request.

Ms. Zane asked if there would be some mechanism for Davie residents to contribute to the Community Chest. Mr. Underwood suggested getting the initial Board members first and then coming up with ideas like using the Town's website. Mr. Curtis said that the Town's website did have links to area businesses and there might not be an issue using it.

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Ms. McDaniel stated that the Board had decided earlier that they would like to help get the Community Chest started by establishing the by-laws and help it get off the ground; however, it wanted no part in making decisions.

Mr. Curtis asked if the two Boards could get together. Mr. Underwood stated that the Budget Advisory Committee put some things together; but, did not want to fund it at all. Ms.

McDaniel informed the Board that they could invited the Budget Advisory Committee to a meeting.

6. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Blanco asked if anyone had heard anything about the Diversity Festival for next year. Ms. McDaniel answered that she had not but would ask Special Projects Director Bonnie Stafiej.

Mr. Curtis informed the Board that he had sent an email, as a Davie resident and not a Board member, to the Miami-Dade Chief of Police inquiring about an ongoing investigation involving Detective Starkey. He had asked if the Chief could address the Board about the case to clear up rumors that had been going around.

Mr. Blanco agreed that the rumor needed to stop. He asked Mr. Miller if he know anything about the investigation. Mr. Miller answered that he knew of the case in question and explained to the Board how a police investigation worked. He added that nothing could be discussed while the investigation was ongoing but he would try to find out if it was nearing an end.

7. TELEPHONE ACTION REQUESTS

Ms. McDaniel updated the Board members absent at the last meeting on the issue at Palma Nova. She introduced the manager of Palma Nova, Clay, along with the Homeowners Association President Cary Rodriguez, and Town Engineer Larry Peters.

Ms. Rodriguez explained that the homeowner's association for Palma Nova was interested in moving forward with installing lights around the complex. She added that Mr. Forman was willing to install them but there was a problem with getting everyone to agree. Ms. Rodriguez said she had spoken to Mr. Peters and he informed her that the Town had agreed to pay for the maintenance of wooden poles which equaled \$6 a pole. She stated that around three hundred poles were needed. Ms. Rodriguez advised that the wooden poles posed a safety issue due to hurricanes. She added that the homeowners association just wanted to see the issue move forward.

Clay explained that FPL had agreed to install the poles and Mr. Forman was to provide the ditch and put in the line. He said that according to Mr. Forman, there was a problem with who would pay the utility bill. Mr. Peters stated that the Town agreed to pay for the energy and maintenance of overhead wiring and poles, just as it did for the rest of the Town.

Mr. Peters advised that FPL offered fiberglass poles instead of wood poles, if the client paid for the trenches needed for the lines. Clay said that they had agreed to the underground

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poles. Mr. Peters answered that Palma Nova and FPL agreed; however, the Town had not agreed to pay the difference in the maintenance cost. He informed the Board that FPL charged an additional maintenance fee for underground poles because they tend to have more maintenance problems.

Mr. Peters explained that the cost for energy and maintenance for a wooden pole was approximately \$6 per pole/month and the cost for underground poles was around \$18 a

month per pole for maintenance only. He stated that he did not have the authority to sign a contract for that much over the price originally agreed upon.

Clay explained that there were not any above ground poles in Palma Nova now and it made more sense to run the lines underground. Mr. Peters stated that he understood the issue of running them underground but the maintenance would be more than \$6 a month. He added that the difference to pay for underground poles would equal approximately \$20,000 a year to the taxpayers.

Mr. Blanco asked that if the Town paid the \$6 a month, could Mr. Forman pay the difference so the underground poles could be installed. Clay answered that he would take back all information to Mr. Forman. Mr. Peters added that there was a possibility that the Town would pick up the difference but he could not make that decision.

Clay stated that on page six of the annexation agreement it stated that within one year, the Town would install lights in Palma Nova. Mr. Peters agreed that all they needed to do was place a call to FPL and they would install the above ground lights, however, Mr. Forman wanted the underground lines instead. Ms. Rodriguez asked what the Town's cap was for maintenance. Mr. Peters answered that it was \$6.

Clay stated that he would speak to Mr. Forman on the issue and get back to Ms. McDaniel and the Board on any decisions made.

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no Public Comments.

9. COMMENTS AND/OR SUGGESTIONS

There were no Comments or Suggestions.

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business and no objections, the meeting was adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Approved: _____

Chair/Board Member