

**COMMUNITY RELATIONS
ADVISORY BOARD
SEPTEMBER 23, 2003**

1. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:20 p.m. Present were Jason Curtis, Donnell Johnson, Willa Moore, Kitty Preziosi, Denis Shaw, and Sharon Zane. Also in attendance were Vice-Mayor Susan Starkey, Assistant Town Clerk Barbara McDaniel, Secretary Janet Gale and Clerk Linda James recording the meeting. Chair Geri Clark, Vice-Chair Tom Truex, Jeannette Davis, Richelle Gilhauley and Katherine Montgomery were absent.

As Chair Clark and Vice-Chair Truex were absent, Mr. Shaw volunteered to chair the meeting.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: September 23, 2003

Mr. Curtis made a motion, seconded by Ms. Zane, to approve the minutes. In a voice vote with Chair Clark, Vice-Chair Truex, Ms. Davis, Ms. Gilhauley and Ms. Montgomery being absent, all voted in favor. (Motion carried 6-0)

3. TELEPHONE ACTION REQUESTS

Ms. Preziosi advised that one call related to hurricane evacuation. This information was sent to Ms. McDaniel as it did not pertain to this Board.

Mr. Shaw brought up an item from the last meeting regarding flooding which had not been discussed well. He believed that the issue was not flooding, but why some communities received good government service while others were neglected. Mr. Shaw expressed that the purpose of this Board was to address problems differently and be sure that equal services were rendered to the needy neighborhoods as well as the affluent. Ms. Preziosi agreed and indicated that one of the Board's purpose was to build community understanding.

4. OLD BUSINESS

4.1 Community Involvement

Ms. McDaniel recalled that at the previous meeting, Board members were to think of ways in which this Board could contribute to the community during the holidays and be more involved in recognizing Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. She indicated that one of the ideas mentioned was for the Board to collect food for the needy in conjunction with the EASE Foundation. Ms. McDaniel added that Ms. Moore had suggested contacting Sports Authority for donations of sporting goods. Mr. Shaw believed that this Board should invite other community groups to participate in the Martin Luther King Jr. Day events. He continued that homeowner's associations from the western section of Davie should also be invited to the festivities.

Ms. McDaniel advised that Special Projects Director Bonnie Stafiej welcomed the Board's help with judging posters and essays for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day event. Vice-Mayor Starkey felt this Board should work more in conjunction with the Town's Special Projects Department. She said that she would like to see this Board working "outside of yourselves" and added that community relations could not be achieved at this table. Vice-Mayor Starkey

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indicated that community relations meant outreach and being proactive and working with the community in various ways to bring the community together.

Ms. McDaniel stated that one organization that always needed help was EASE which provided help for people in need, financially as well as a food pantry. Vice-Mayor Starkey many organizations donated to EASE but it was only a "one shot effort" per year. She added that the schools also had food drives and prepared food baskets. Vice-Mayor Starkey mentioned that the HOPE Outreach Program and the Boys & Girls Club also provided to the needy.

5. NEW BUSINESS

Vice-Mayor Starkey advised that every year, the Town struggles with requests from charities and approximately \$200,000 was budgeted each year. She stated that there was a lot of pressure put on Council to disseminate the limited funds. Vice-Mayor Starkey discussed her idea of creating a Community Chest and this Board or a Community Chest Board of Trustees would accept applications based on established criteria so that there would be fair and equitable distribution of the funds. She thought this Board might be a good place to start. Vice-Mayor Starkey stated that the Board of Trustees would have the ability to raise the funds so that the \$200,000 could be "weaned" off the taxpayer's budget. She discussed the City of Coral Springs' Community Chest.

Mr. Shaw was worried that this Board was becoming political and this would become more so if money was involved. Mr. Curtis felt the Town's business people should head the Community Chest as he did not think it was a good idea for this Board. Mr. Shaw indicated that the Town should support the Community Chest and he liked the idea of a broad based community business group that would be deeply involved. Vice-Mayor Starkey advised that she would like this Board to "get it going" and be the "spring off." Ms. Preziosi indicated that the Community Chest was a good idea but not for this Board. Vice-Mayor Starkey stated that this Board could establish the criteria, the by-laws and the types of business people to be involved.

Ms. Preziosi suggested that this Board be a charter committee for the Community Chest Board of Trustees. Mr. Shaw agreed.

Ms. Preziosi made a motion, seconded by Ms. Zane, that the Board adopt the project, being for a short term, the charter committee to develop the by-laws, policies, etc. of a new Community Chest endeavor. Mr. Curtis suggested that the vote wait until more Board members were present. Ms. McDaniel indicated that the vote could be taken and if the absent members felt differently, the vote could be reconsidered. She added that because the budget was beginning in approximately six months, this project may take four months to complete.

Ms. Preziosi amended her motion to include Mr. Shaw as the project chair of the endeavor. Ms. Zane seconded the amendment.

In a voice vote on the amendment, all voted in favor with Chair Clark, Vice-Chair Truex, Ms. Davis, Ms. Gilhauley and Ms. Montgomery being absent. (Motion carried 6-0)

In a voice vote on the original motion, all voted in favor with Chair Clark, Vice-Chair Truex, Ms. Davis, Ms. Gilhauley and Ms. Montgomery being absent. (Motion carried 6-0)

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Ms. McDaniel advised that Norm Blanco was able to secure 20 turkeys for Thanksgiving and he had asked that this Board decide who should receive them.

Ms. Preziosi made a motion, seconded by Mr. Johnson, to give the turkeys to the EASE program. In a voice vote, all voted in favor with Chair Clark, Vice-Chair Truex, Ms. Davis, Ms. Gilhauley and Ms. Montgomery being absent. (Motion carried 6-0)

After a brief discussion regarding EASE and the Boys and Girls Club, Ms. Preziosi made a motion, seconded by Mr. Curtis that at the next meeting, a list of desires from EASE and the Boys and Girls Club be available to make a decision, individually and as a group, on what would be done for the two groups. In a voice vote, all voted in favor with Chair Clark, Vice-Chair Truex, Ms. Davis, Ms. Gilhauley and Ms. Montgomery being absent. (Motion carried 6-0)

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Vice-Mayor Starkey had heard of neighbors/communities making comments regarding projects related to the Town. She suggested study circles for communities to work together and work through problems/issues and make changes.

Mr. Shaw indicated that he had witnessed where community meetings had a nasty discourse, even though the issue was handled. Vice-Mayor Starkey stated that there should be an opportunity to heal and bring together a consensus. Ms. Preziosi stated that the Board had an opportunity to raise the standard of dialogue and that mean spiritedness would not be tolerated. Ms. Zane indicated that she did not want the Board to be perceived to be taking sides on an issue and perhaps the Board could function more as "a rumor controlled hot line in person." Ms. Preziosi suggested that the Board could be a voice in asking Council to make a requirement that it was not okay to talk mean, unkind, etc. while speaking at Council meetings. Vice-Mayor Starkey indicated that the Council agenda provided a section regarding decorum but one could not control people's ill manners. Ms. Preziosi indicated that people could be held accountable.

Ms. McDaniel advised that the next meeting was scheduled for October 28th.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Zane made the motion to adjourn, Ms. Preziosi seconded. In a voice vote, all voted in favor with Chair Clark, Vice-Chair Truex, Ms. Davis, Ms. Gilhauley and Ms. Montgomery being absent. (Motion carried 6-0)

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Approved: _____

Chair/Board Member