

Eloise Community Redevelopment Agency Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Johnny and Freda Brooks Resource Center
(formerly known as Eloise Resource Center)
710 Snively Avenue
Eloise, FL 33880

Monday, March 8th, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER –Committee Chair, Minerva Gil, called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m., welcoming all attendees.

Attendance:

Advisory Committee Members present:

- Lee Castillo
- Martha Paul
- Eugenia Barton

Polk County BoCC Staff present:

- Alain Nuñez, CRA Manager
- Christia Johnson, Director, Budget & Management Services
- Cameron Ramsey, Recreation Coordinator, Parks & Natural Resources
- Elizabeth Voss, Deputy County Attorney
- Lisa Harris, Code Investigator, Code Enforcement
- Deputy Jordan Owens, Polk County Sheriff's Office
- Deputy Ricardo Morales, Polk County Sheriff's Office

No. 1 on Agenda: Welcome to Stakeholders

Alain Nuñez, CRA Manager, welcomed stakeholders. Ms. Minerva Gil announced the passing of fellow Committee Member, Mr. Laurence Powell. Ms. Gil called for a moment of silence in remembrance.

No. 2 on Agenda: Approval of March 2nd, 2020 Minutes

Committee Chair, Minerva Gil, made a motion to approve the March 2nd, 2020 Eloise CRA Advisory Committee meeting minutes, with a second from Martha Paul. All approved.

No. 3 on Agenda: Requests from the General Public and Opportunity to be heard

None.

No. 4 on Agenda: Old Business

• **2020 Summer Youth Enrichment Program**

Alain updated the Committee that the program did occur but was scaled back due to Covid-19. Cameron informed the Committee that the participant to the program worked at the Resource Center and gave a summary of some of the assignments.

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- **Possible Senior Art Program Discussion**

Alain mentioned that during the last CRA Advisory Committee meeting on March 2nd, 2020, the Committee approved the Senior Art Program, however due to Covid-19 this program was not realized. Discussion ensued.

- **Soccer Field Discussion**

Alain discussed that there was mention of previous discussions regarding using CRA funds to build a soccer field. Discussion ensued about its possible location and concerns.

- **Brick Pavers Discussion**

Alain notified the Committee that the Brick Pavers Project had not transpired, and that it seemed like the project did not go past the discussion stage.

No. 5 on Agenda: New Business

- **Financial Report**

Alain updated the Committee on the expenditures made during fiscal year 2020-2021 and informed them of the current fund balance. The Committee was made aware of the Legislation passed by the State in 2019 that impacted CRAs. Deputy County Attorney, Elizabeth, gave an overview of the changes, and mentioned how they may affect what projects may or may not be allowed going forward. Additional discussion ensued.

- **2021 CRA Projects**

Committee Member, Lee Castillo, discussed the possibility of building a bus shelter for the bus stop located on the north bound side of US Hwy 17, and 3rd Avenue. Discussion ensued. The Committee gave Alain direction to research further.

Committee Member, Lee Castillo, discussed the issue with homes that collect debris, but may have difficulties with being able to haul the debris away. Lee asked about the possibility of a program to help residents with removal. Discussion ensued. Lisa went on to discuss some options, as well as introduce herself as the Code Investigator assigned to the Eloise area. Lisa and Alain were given direction from the Committee to research options. Deputy Owens was asked about the possibility of using Weekend Work Release Crews.

Lisa discussed current Codes related affairs.

Committee Member, Lee Castillo, discussed the possibility of having High Intensity Flashing Crosswalk Signage installed on 3rd Street. Discussion ensued. Direction was given for Alain to research further.

Committee Member, Lee Castillo, discussed about a previous request to look into installing Speed Calming Humps on 5th Street and 7th Street. Alain mentioned that a traffic stop had been conducted, but he did not have the results with him. Direction was given for Alain to report the findings of the study, and to look into the possibility of another traffic study.

Discussion took place with the Committee Members requesting ideas that may be allowable for the CRA. Elizabeth reiterated that any projects need to align with the CRA Plan.

Discussion took place regarding the vacancy on the Committee due to Mr. Powell's untimely passing, as well as Ms. Gil's upcoming end of term.

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Deputies Owens and Morales gave an update on recent law enforcement matters within Eloise. Additional community related discussion ensued.

Discussion took place regarding the possibility to use CRA Funds to refurbish the restrooms located in the park grounds that are shared with the elementary school's P.E. field. Direction was given for Alain to research further.

Discussion took place regarding the possibility of renewing the Summer Youth Enrichment Program for another year. Direction was given for Alain to research further. Motion was made by Eugenia Barton to move forward with the Summer Youth Enrichment Program, with a second from Minerva Gil. All approved.

No. 6 on Agenda: Program and Project Status

There were no current ongoing programs or projects to discuss.

No. 7 on Agenda: Set date for next Advisory Committee Meeting

Committee set the next CRA Advisory Committee meeting to Monday, June 7th, 2021 – 6:00 p.m. at the Johnny and Freda Brooks Resource Center.

ADJOURN

Meeting was adjourned at 6:58 p.m.