

# Eloise CRA Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

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

Monday September 23, 2019 6:00 p.m.

Committee Chair, Larry Powell called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., welcoming all attendees. Advisory Committee Members Larry Powell, Lee Castillo, and Minerva Gill were present.

## **Guests:**

Rosa Chavez  
Martha Paul  
Freda Brooks  
Javier Gil  
Lydia Mance'llas

## **Staff:**

Cameron Ramsey, Polk County Parks and Natural Resources  
Beneshea Frazier, Polk County CRA Manager  
Deputy Steve Theriac, Polk County Sherriff's Office  
Todd Bond, Polk County Budget & Management  
Elizabeth Voss, Polk County County Attorney

Welcome to Stakeholders

(#1 on agenda)

Beneshea Frazier, CRA Manager welcomed stakeholders.

Approval of Minutes

(#2 on agenda)

Committee member Lee Castillo moved to approve the CRA minutes with a second from Minerva Gill. All approved.

Requests from the General Public and Opportunity to be heard

(#3 on agenda)

Lydia Mance'llas spoke about a dilapidated trailer and overgrown grass in the vacant lot on 5<sup>th</sup> street.

**Update:** Residents are asked to contact code enforcement directly to report related issues (Harvey Green (863) 534-6733 E-mail: [harveygreen@polk-county.net](mailto:harveygreen@polk-county.net)).

Rosa Chavez requested information related to elderly assistance (fencing).

**Update:** Residents may contact Housing and Neighborhood Development for home repair and rehabilitation (863) 534-5240.

Freda Books identified Cameron Ramsey as the new recreation coordinator for the Eloise Resource Center, at which time Cameron formally introduced himself to staff and residents.

Javier Gil discussed the housing, code enforcement, and overall activity of the CRA. Extensive conversation ensued regarding improving the CRA.

Lee Castillo requested **speed signs** be placed within residential areas to mitigate speeding issues.

**Update:** Although some municipalities have posted these or similar signs in residential areas no evidence has been presented to document their success in reducing accidents, vehicle speeds or legal liability. Signs do not and cannot provide an added degree of protection and if parents and children believe they do, a great disservice results. Children should not be encouraged to play within the roadways. Because of these serious considerations, Polk County does not recognize the use of Children at Play signs.

Javier Gil requested the installation of **speed bumps**.

**Update:** The last request for speed bumps was made in 2015 with the volume of traffic not supporting its installation. Staff have requested a study to determine whether there is a need for speed humps in the residential areas at this time. Board policy requires a minimum traffic volume of 750 and the speed has to be eight miles an hour or more over the posted speed, with 80% approval for owners that front the road and 50% approval of those whose only access is that road. The Average Daily Traffic was 170 Vehicles Per Day, with an 85<sup>th</sup> Percentile Speed of 25 MPH. Unfortunately, it falls short of the BoCC policy minimum requirements of 750 Vehicles Per Day and an 85<sup>th</sup> Percentile Speed of 28 MPH.

Freda Brooks went on to discuss the need for additional **lighting** within the CRA.

**Update:** At this time, there is no need to add additional streetlights. TECO is currently in the process of upgrading all existing non-LED lights to energy-efficient smart LEDs in early 2019 and will continue through 2022. The Eloise community will have upgrades in year 2020. For more information, contact TECO at (863) 299-0800.

Old Business

(#4 on agenda)

Bus Shelter & Citrus Labels

Beneshea went on to discuss the transit shelter installation previously approved by the CRA Committee. The new shelter option available to include a perforated back and sides, bike rack and trash can, and decreased lead-time of 3 months and discuss the removal of the old mushroom shelter. Additionally, Beneshea went on to discuss the process of the approval for the installation of the citrus label signs.

Summer Youth Internship Initiative

Beneshea Frazier, CRA Manager provided the committee with an update on a previously approved Summer Youth Internship Initiative.

New Business and Updates

(#5 on agenda)

Committee seat availability

Beneshea went on to discuss a vacant seat on the Committee and requested recommendations from the Committee.

#### Brick Paver Project

Beneshea went on to briefly discuss the previously tabled brick paver project and the reminded the committee that the project will be presented once more during the December 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Sinkhole?

Cameron Ramsey mentioned an issue with a **sinkhole** within the CRA.

**Update:** Our Fort Meade Maintenance Unit responded to the request. They temporarily patched the hole and notified Doug Gable, our Transportation Engineer, of the issue. It appears that a reinforced concrete pipe (RCP) cross drain is failing under the roadway. A contractor will be slip-lining the failing cross drain within the next few weeks. Slip-lining involves placing a sleeve on the inside of the pipe.

#### New Bus Shelter Installation

Beneshea addressed a previous concern regarding the installation of a new bus shelter on 17. A motion was made to pursue the installation of this new bus shelter and make a determination of feasibility.

#### Program and Project Status

(#6 on agenda)

Beneshea went on to provide an overview of Code enforcement Officer Harvey Green's enforcement report to include current and closed cases within the CRA.

Deputy Steve Theriac, with the Polk County Sherriff's Office reported that there was one incident during the month of October located on 8<sup>th</sup> Street whereby two cell phones were stolen from a home.

Committee Chair, Larry Powell adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:00 p.m.

- **Set Date for next Advisory Committee Meeting**
  - Next CRA Meeting: Monday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019 – 6:00 p.m. at the Eloise Resource Center

ADJOURN