



**MT. PLYMOUTH-SORRENTO COMMUNITY  
REDEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
JULY 15, 2014 MEETING MINUTES  
J.A. CROSON OFFICES – CONFERENCE ROOM  
31550 COUNTY ROAD 437, SORRENTO, FLORIDA 32776**

**CALL TO ORDER** – The July 15, 2014 meeting of the Lake County Mt. Plymouth-Sorrento Community Redevelopment Advisory (CRA) Committee began at 6:04 p.m. It was noted that a quorum was present.

**ATTENDANCE:**

<p><b><u>Members/Staff Attending:</u></b>          Frances Geddes, Property Owner in Planning Area          Matthew Matulia, Property Owner in Planning Area          Frances Nipe, Resident/Property Owner within 3-miles, Vice Chairman          Thomas A. Van de Kieft, Resident/Property Owner within 3-miles          Timothy J. Bailey, Resident/Property Owner within 3-miles, Chairman          Commissioner Leslie Campione, BCC Liaison          Bill Veach, Deputy County Manager          Dottie Keedy, Director, Community Services Department          Linda Green, Office Associate V, Community Services Department</p>	<p><b><u>Members/Staff – Not Attending</u></b>          Dave Croson, Property Owner in Planning Area          Christine Thompson, Property Owner in Planning Area</p> <hr/> <p><b><u>Others Attending:</u></b>          Barbara Tenney          James Tenney          Shirley Meade          Maggie Fisher          Virginia Loomis          Rob Ern          Helen McCormick</p>
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**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

A motion to approve the March 4, 2014 Mt. Plymouth-Sorrento CRA Committee minutes, as presented, was made by Francis Nipe, seconded by Frances Geddes, and the motion was carried unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**PROPOSED COMMITTEE PROJECTS:**

National Wildlife Federation: Chair Bailey asked the Committee members to review the information that was distributed concerning the National Wildlife Federation – Community Wildlife Habitats to decide, at a later date, whether this is a project that one of the members

would like to head up. Ms. Dottie Keedy distributed copies of the National Wildlife Magazine – April/May 2014 Edition that was provided by Dr. Mary Anderson.

It was noted that becoming a Community Wildlife Habitat would be very labor intensive and require five to 12 people working to get the certification with a Committee member Chairing and guiding the group. Chair Bailey encouraged all Committee members to visit the National Wildlife Federation website ([www.nwf.org/community](http://www.nwf.org/community)) to research the information before the next MP-S CRA Advisory Committee meeting.

Committee Liaison for Intergovernmental Activities: Chair Bailey discussed appointing a member to Chair an Intergovernmental Activities Committee that would serve as the liaison for other governmental meetings such as the East Lake Northwest Orange County Elected Officials meeting.

Ms. Keedy briefly discussed the “Lake Apopka North Shore Ecotourism Strategic Action Plan” that was shared at the East Lake Northwest Orange County Elected Officials meeting on July 11, 2014, in Apopka. She noted that the 1,000-acre plan features an eco-village concept. Chair Bailey opined that the Mt. Plymouth-Sorrento CRA Advisory Committee needs to work with that group so they can positively connect to the rails to trails projects. Ms. Keedy noted that she would email each Committee member a copy of the “Lake Apopka North Shore Ecotourism Strategic Action Plan.” (*Email sent to Committee members on July 21, 2014 by Linda Green*).

Dissemination of Zoning/Land Use Activities in Mt. Plymouth-Sorrento: Chair Bailey suggested that Committee members be kept abreast of any planning projects near the CRA boundary by appointing a liaison to stay in contact with the Growth Management Department’s Planning and Community Design Division.

Ms. Frances Nipe remarked that she would like to have design standards created for the CRA. Chair Bailey stated that the community will create the design standards and the Lake County Comprehensive Plan will determine if the standards can be used. Ms. Keedy informed that some commercial design standards have recently been adopted through the Comprehensive Plan.

**ANNUAL COMMUNITY MEETING:**

Date, Location, Outreach to Promote Attendance, Topics: Chair Bailey asked the Committee members if they would like to have a CRA Community Meeting on an annual or semi-annual basis at Sorrento Elementary School. Presently, it is proposed to be scheduled in October on an annual basis.

The purpose of the meeting would be to educate the community by informing them the purpose of a CRA and what has been done to date.

Ms. Catherine Hanson questioned whether they should host a “Charrette.” (*A Charrette is a technique for consulting with all stakeholders sometimes involving intense and possibly multi-day meetings, involving municipal officials, developers, and residents thereby allowing early*

*input into the planning process. A successful Charrette promotes joint ownership of solutions and attempts to defuse typical confrontational attitudes between residents and developers.)*

Ms. Keedy reviewed some possible ideas for the CRA Community Meeting such as information about the CRA, what it is and how it began, current status and land use. She discussed the possibility of inviting staff from the Growth Management Department to discuss land use; the Office of Economic Development and Tourism to discuss economic and tourism options; and the Lake-Sumter Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to discuss how the Wekiva Parkway impacts the area. After that meeting they could gauge the interest in holding a Charrette and what topics the community would like to focus on.

Commissioner Campione advised against opening up thoughts of the CRA giving the impression that they want to focus on changing land uses. Ms. Keedy agreed noting they would need to focus on redevelopment within the CRA only.

Commissioner Campione suggested the possibility of including a “community cleanup” similar to the one that took place in the area approximately one year ago organized through the Code Enforcement Division and the Department of Public Works.

Considerable discussion ensued concerning the “community cleanup” with the possibility of holding it in two locations in the area, how to get the word out, and how many volunteers would be needed.

Chair Bailey expressed that he and Ms. Keedy will work on the “community cleanup” idea and schedule a meeting to discuss it between now and October.

At this time, the Committee agreed to hold the CRA Community Meeting on October 14, 2014 at Sorrento Elementary School (*provided the school is available*). It was also agreed to hold a “community cleanup” Saturday, October 11 and Sunday, October 12, 2014 prior to the Community Meeting.

#### **APA AND FRA CONFERENCE AGENDAS:**

Ms. Keedy briefly discussed the American Planning Association Florida Chapter conference coming up September 9-6, 2014 in Jacksonville and the Florida Redevelopment Association conference coming up October 7-10, 2014 in Miami. She noted that she would email the agendas to the Committee members (*Email sent to Committee members on July 21, 2014 by Linda Green*). Chair Bailey encouraged all members to attend one or both of those conferences as they are very informative.

#### **OPEN DISCUSSION:**

Commissioner Campione discussed concerns citizens have expressed about the possibility of the East Lake Library being shut down due to County budget issues. She noted that the Lake County Board of County Commissioners will be discussing the millage at the BCC meeting on Tuesday, July 22<sup>nd</sup> and remarked that she has not heard nor does she support

closing that Library. She discussed other strategies that could be utilized to fix the budget issues that would not involve increasing the millage or closing any libraries.

Ms. Maggie Fisher, of the audience, questioned when the naming of State Road 46 would be discussed before the BCC. To which Ms. Keedy informed that staff is tentatively scheduled to discuss this issue with the BCC on August 12, 2014 and noted that the top vote for the name change is "Sorrento Avenue."

Discussion occurred concerning the Jones property rezoning that had recently been proposed and it was noted that the rezoning of that property reverted it back to its original zoning.

It was noted that there is no access to the Wekiva River from the Mt. Plymouth-Sorrento area in Lake County and it was stated that the community should request passive access to the Wekiva River through the local legislators.

Ms. Nipe suggested that the proposed committees could plan things to do within the CRA that do not cost money. She also mentioned they should look at creating art in public spaces.

Chair Bailey mentioned reviewing design criteria for the CRA after the October Community Meeting and Ms. Keedy proposed to have staff from Growth Management present at that meeting.

Ms. Hanson shared that on Saturday, July 19, 2014 there will be a "Candidate Meet and Greet" breakfast at Lisa's Kountry Café, in Sorrento, at 8:00 a.m.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business to be brought to the attention of the Committee, a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 p.m. was made by Mathew Matulia, seconded by Thomas Van de Kieft, and the motion was carried unanimously.

The next Mt. Plymouth-Sorrento CRA Advisory Committee meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, September 9, 2014 (*Due to the Lake County Board of County Commissioners Budget Public Hearing scheduled at 5:05 p.m. that date, it was changed to Tuesday, September 16, 2014*).

Prepared By:



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Linda Green  
Office Associate V

July 24, 2014

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Date