



**MT. PLYMOUTH-SORRENTO COMMUNITY
REDEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 16, 2014 MEETING MINUTES
J.A. CROSON OFFICES – CONFERENCE ROOM
31550 COUNTY ROAD 437, SORRENTO, FLORIDA 32776**

CALL TO ORDER – The September 16, 2014 meeting of the Lake County Mt. Plymouth-Sorrento Community Redevelopment Advisory (CRA) Committee began at 6:05 p.m. It was noted that a quorum was present.

ATTENDANCE:

<p><u>Members/Staff Attending:</u> Frances Geddes, Property Owner in Planning Area Dave Croson, 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 Bill Veach, Deputy County Manager Dottie Keedy, Director, Community Services Department Erika L. Greene, Northeast Lake Economic Development Coordinator, Economic Development & Tourism Department Linda Green, Office Associate V, Community Services Department</p>	<p><u>Members/Staff – Not Attending</u> Christine Thompson, Property Owner in Planning Area Commissioner Leslie Campione, BCC Liaison</p>
	<p><u>Others Attending:</u> Shirley Meade Betty Ann Christian Chuck Hiott, BESH Virginia Loomis Susan Brooks Catherine Hanson</p>

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:

Chair Bailey welcomed everyone to the meeting and requested each person to introduce themselves and share what makes them passionate about the Mt. Plymouth-Sorrento area.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Chair Bailey asked if the members were prepared to approve the Minutes of the July 15, 2014 meeting at which time they were not. The approval of the Minutes was tabled until later in the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN PRESENTATION:

Mr. Thomas Van de Kieft provided a photograph presentation of various architectural designs that could be incorporated into the design standards on the main street within the CRA. The photographs included existing architecture and equestrian-type fencing in the area. He discussed “downtown” vehicle lanes and traffic calming devices; and “downtown” sidewalks and vehicle/pedestrian zones that are incorporated in a local CRA. Pedestrian/golf cart pathways and the transition to “country” areas were also reviewed.

Mr. Van de Kieft was questioned whether brick streets should be required within the CRA and he noted that it could be required within the node areas.

A lengthy discussion ensued concerning parking around buildings that are close to the road and that studies would have to be done to determine how best to incorporate them.

Mr. Van de Kieft then discussed different styles of architecture that could be utilized with an emphasis on “country style” since some of the existing buildings in the area feature that type. It was noted that the downtown areas should have a variety of façades in similar architectural styles. It was commented that rules could be created to discourage identical type buildings next to each other.

Mr. Van de Kieft shared some “Equestrian” architectural photographs that could be incorporated into the area. A comment was made that the CRA may be able to provide funding for existing buildings to revitalize their façades.

Discussion occurred concerning a historic Presbyterian Church located on Church Street in Sorrento and that its architectural style could be replicated throughout the CRA.

Mr. Van de Kieft shared photographs of possible entryway signage that could be placed at the entrances into the Mt. Plymouth-Sorrento area. It was discussed whether the signage could be visible from the proposed Wekiva Parkway or whether it would only be visible from State Road 46.

Chair Bailey suggested creating a sub-committee to revise the Lake County Land Development Regulations relating to the Mt. Plymouth-Sorrento CRA because of the proposed development projects in the area. He questioned Ms. Dottie Keedy if she could work with Ms. Frances Nipe and Mr. Van de Kieft on that issue. To which she replied she would after an initial meeting with the County’s Growth Management Department.

Chair Bailey asked the committee members and other attendees if they were comfortable with creating stringent regulations for the area, to which most replied that they were.

Discussion occurred concerning the location of buildings and whether parking in the rear was the only option. It was noted if parking was in front of the building there should be a

green buffer in place. It was also noted that where the buildings are placed has an impact on the walkability of the area.

Considerable discussion took place concerning different varieties of parking solutions and signage requirements.

It was noted that the decisions of the committee will need to be brought before the CRA Board (Board of County Commissioners), possibly, in January.

ECO-TOURISM UPDATE:

Chair Bailey discussed the Lake Apopka North Shore Ecotourism Strategic Action Plan provided through a partnership with the City of Apopka, the St. Johns River Water Management District, Orange County, Lake County, and Long & Scott Farms. He noted that this Plan consists of thousands of acres encompassing the entire Lake Apopka.

Chair Bailey shared the conceptual plan which includes Agritourism, Eco-Village, and the North Shore Recreation Area.

Chair Bailey communicated the stakeholders who are involved in the Lake Apopka North Shore Ecotourism Strategic Action Plan such as the City of Mount Dora, Green Mountain Scenic Byway, Florida Audubon, Florida Freewheelers, Mosquito Creek Outdoors and many others. He mentioned he would like to see those types of stakeholders taking an interest in the Mt. Plymouth-Sorrento endeavors and that the Mayor of Apopka is willing to work with them.

He noted that a Steering Committee was formed for the Mt. Plymouth-Sorrento area at an East Lake Chamber of Commerce Visioning Session Meeting held on Monday, September 15, 2014 at the East Lake County Library.

STATE ROAD 46 DISCUSSION:

Ms. Keedy shared that when the Department of Transportation turns State Road 46 over to the County they will resurface the road and most likely speed limits will be reduced. She mentioned the “complete streets” concept. It was noted that the County will seek assistance with engineering experience to reconfigure the roadway. Also mentioned was that golf cart usage could be allowed depending on speed limits and traffic.

Ms. Nipe briefly discussed the “complete streets” and the “road diet” concepts and noted that she would send links to staff to share with the committee members. Accident fatalities and how they relate to speed limits was discussed.

Conversation continued concerning sidewalks, on-site parking for businesses and mixed use areas. Also, discussed was utilities and how to handle the lack of. It was noted that the committee will need to look at utility standards as part of the Lake County Land Development Regulations (LDRs) for the Mt. Plymouth-Sorrento area.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

At this time, Chair Bailey asked if the members were prepared to approve the Minutes of the July 15, 2014 meeting at which time they were.

A motion to approve the July 15, 2014 Mt. Plymouth-Sorrento CRA Committee minutes, as presented, was made by Dave Croson, seconded by Frances Geddes, and the motion was carried unanimously.

COMMUNITY-WIDE MEETING DISCUSSION:

The group discussed what topics to cover in the community-wide meeting. It was noted that the agenda could cover eco-tourism, as well as, provide an introduction to what a CRA is and what it is hoping to accomplish. The idea to have a “charrette” type meeting was discussed and ensuring that citizens' apprehension is addressed.

The group agreed to have the meeting on Tuesday, November 18, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. at Sorrento Elementary School if it is available. It was also agreed that a charrette would be included if staff is able to secure a facilitator. It was discussed that the objective of the meeting is to secure a consensus throughout the community on the direction the CRA is taking. Maps of the CRA could be enlarged on posters and comment cards created for the community to provide input at the meeting.

A motion to approve to have the community-wide meeting on Tuesday, November 18, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. at Sorrento Elementary School, if available, was made by Frances Nipe, seconded by Thomas Van de Kieft, and the motion was carried unanimously.

OPEN DISCUSSION:

Ms. Nipe noted, for clarification, she will review design standards with Ms. Keedy.

It was mentioned that the Mt. Dora Chamber of Commerce luncheon will be held at the Country Club of Mt. Dora on Wednesday, September 17, 2014.

Also mentioned was that the East Lake Historical Museum is open Thursday's from noon until 4:00 p.m. and on Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. It is located at 24005 State Road 46, Sorrento, across the street from Merv's Mowers.

Mr. Van de Kieft noted that he would include photographs of the old Mt. Plymouth Hotel and Country Club in his next slide presentation.

It was announced that the East Lake Chamber of Commerce's 15th Annual Fall Festival will take place on Saturday, October 18, 2014 from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. at the East Lake County Library.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to be brought to the attention of the Committee, a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 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, October 14, 2014.

Prepared By:



Linda Green
Office Associate V

September 22, 2014
Date