



**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
BABCOCK STREET CRA ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
Melbourne City Hall Council Chamber  
February 22, 2017 ♦ 8:00 A.M.**

1. A regular meeting of the Babcock Street Community Redevelopment Agency Advisory Committee was held in the Council Chamber, 900 East Strawbridge Avenue, and was called to order at 8:05 A.M. by Chairman John Edmiston.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. The following members were:

Present: John Edmiston, Chairman  
Nancy Garmer, Vice-Chairman  
Karen Harshaw, Member  
Neil Long, Member  
Patsy West, Member  
Jim Ridenour, Member  
Jennifer Cope, Alternate Member

Absent: Aaron Thalwitzer, Member (excused)  
James Lee Turman, Jr., Alternate Member

Also Present: Kelly Hyvonen, Planner  
Mary Wolak, Recording Secretary

4. **Approval of Minutes**

a. July 27, 2016 special meeting

Moved by Edmiston/Harshaw to approve the July 27, 2016 special meeting minutes as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

b. October 26, 2016 regular meeting

Moved by Edmiston/Ridenour to approve the October 26, 2016 regular meeting minutes as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

- c. November 30, 2016 special meeting

Moved by Edmiston/Ridenour to approve the November 30, 2016 special meeting minutes as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

**5. Community Policing Report**

*Officer Joe Yorkey, Community Policing Officer*

Officer Yorkey said the homeless are still hanging around the bus stops along Babcock Street and causing problems but the police are making some progress. He said the addicting drug called "spice", known as K2, continues to be a big problem and discussed the police department's involvement with trying to reduce this crime.

**6. Program & Project Updates**

Babcock Street Phase IIIB

Ms. Hyvonen said the city contacted Florida Power and Light (FPL) regarding the shifting of three transmission poles located in the Babcock Street Phase III B area. She said this project requires up to three poles to be moved to accommodate U-turn movements. She said staff was hoping that FPL would pay to have those poles moved because they are in the right-of-way. She mentioned that this is a road widening project and FPL explained that there is a 1920s blanket easement over 80 acres. She said a surveyor will look at this and it will be legally reviewed. She said if the CRA has to pay for it, it would cost about \$100,000 for each pole to be moved.

Ms. Hyvonen said the design may be revised so some poles can stay where they are.

Ms. Cope asked if any studies were done about the safety ramifications of a lane shift.

Ms. Hyvonen said the lane shift would be about two feet and would be done gradually over a long distance. She said it is a 500 foot gradual shift and the engineering department does not have any safety issues shifting it.

Ms. Hyvonen said property acquisition is on hold because staff is waiting to hear from the surveyor which may or may not change the final design.

Stellar Transportation

Ms. Hyvonen said the Stellar Transportation façade improvement grant was approved by City Council. She said it will take some time to get construction started since they are a small business and many contractors are busy.

### Siam Orchid

Ms. Hyvonen said she met with Siam Orchid and they are working on a facade grant application.

### Dental Office

Ms. Hyvonen said she has been looking at some conceptual plans for a dental office for the property that used to be the old bowling alley across from DRS.

## **7. General Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

## **8. Board Self-Evaluation**

Ms. Hyvonen said once a year the Committee has an opportunity to discuss how they believe the board is operating with regard to participation, attendance or any Council requests.

Mr. Edmiston said he sent pictures of the drainage problem at 1025 Babcock Street to Commissioner Isnardi and spoke with her office. He thought the reason why the wall got struck there was because a motorist hit the pothole on the road in the rain. He said TD Bank requested that the County or City take some responsibility to fix the wall. He told how the bank eventually fixed the wall and material was added into the sidewalk but it does not bring the sidewalk to handicap status.

Mr. Ridenour asked if the CRA will be extended for additional years.

Ms. Hyvonen said staff has not been directed to do anything in regards to extending the sunset.

Mr. Edmiston mentioned that the County Commission is holding a workshop on April 13<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. He explained there is \$560 million in unfunded transportation projects and they paid \$4.6 million last year to 24 CRAs in the County. He said they want to get rid of CRAs so they can use the money to pay down the \$560 million.

## **9. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair**

Mr. Ridenour nominated Mr. Edmiston as Chair, and Ms. Garmer as Vice-Chair.

Ms. Harshaw agreed.

Mr. Edmiston said he was Chairman for a while and would be willing to let someone else take the seat. He said he enjoys it and is happy he has the support of the Committee.

Moved by Ridenour/Harshaw to elect John Edmiston as Chairman and Nancy Garmer as Vice-Chairman.

Motion carried unanimously.

**10. Additional Business**

Ms. Garmer asked about the parking lot design plans for the property across from DRS. She asked if the parking lot will front Babcock Street.

Ms. Hyvonen said the concept plans indicated a T-shaped parking lot with the building fronting the road and most of the parking behind.

Mr. Edmiston said the police department may move to airport property in the future so the property will become vacant. He said if that happens there will be another vacant building on Babcock Street.

Ms. Hyvonen said if the police department moves and someone else develops on that property there it may become taxable.

Mr. Edmiston requested an update at the next meeting regarding the development Hickory Street Complete Streets project.

Mr. Ridenour asked what can be done about the condition of the County-maintained portion of Babcock Street.

Mr. Edmiston said the CRA is running out of time and they cannot take on a major project and fund anything since there is less than eight years left.

Ms. Hyvonen said the area of the CRA can be expanded without the county's permission but we cannot extend the sunset.

Ms. Hyvonen urged the Committee to let others know how important it is to support CRAs.

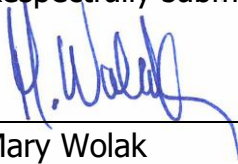
Mr. Edmiston gave a picture of the pond area to the Mayor at the last City Council meeting because she has been talking directly with the City Manager concerning the cattail situation there. He said he hopes something will be rectified in the future.

**11. Adjournment**

Moved by Ridenour/Harshaw to adjourn the meeting at 8:57 A.M.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



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Mary Wolak  
Recording Secretary