



**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY
FINAL OFFICIAL MINUTES
Naranja Lakes Community Redevelopment
Agency (CRA)**

Board of County Commissioners

South Dade Government Center

Room 203

10710 S.W. 211 Street

Miami, Florida

September 24, 2007

As Advertised

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Board of County Commissioners

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**CLERK'S SUMMARY AND OFFICIAL MINUTES
NARANJA LAKES
COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY (CRA)
SEPTEMBER 24, 2007**

The Naranja Lakes Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) Board met in the South Dade Government Center, Room 203, 10710 S.W. 211 Street, Miami, Florida, at 6:00 p.m., September 24, 2007; there being present upon roll call: Mr. Rene Infante, Mr. Lipe, Mr. Moe Hakssa, Mr. Stuart Archer and Mr. Kenneth Forbes; (Chairperson Nina Betancourt and Ms. Marlene Volkert were late); (Mr. Parsuram Ramkissoon was absent); Mr. Mike Iturrey, CRA Coordinator, Office of Strategic Business Management; Mr. Jason Rodriguez, CRA Analyst, Office of Strategic Business Management; and Deputy Clerk Jill Thornton.

I. Meeting Call to Order and Roll Call

Mr. Forbes called the CRA Board meeting to order at 6:07 p.m. Upon roll call and a quorum being present, the Board proceeded to consider tonight's agenda.

II. Moment of Silence in Memory of Officer Jose Somohano

Mr. Forbes requested that everyone present at tonight's meeting join the CRA Board in a moment of silent prayer in remembrance of the late Jose Somohano, a police officer who was killed in the line of duty on September 13, 2007.

III. Presentation of Certificates of Appreciation

Mr. Forbes presented Certificates of Appreciation on behalf of Miami-Dade County Mayor and the Board of County Commissioners to the Cutler Ridge District's Miami-Dade Police Officers, Police Explorers and Team Metro Officers in recognition of their efforts in the Sea Pines Neighborhood Resource Fair, the Cutler Ridge Station Open House, and their contributions to the South Dade communities.

Ms. Lourdes Avalos introduced herself as Acting Coordinator for Team Metro's South Dade Regional Office, and noted she would be working together with Ms. Jean Ballard, Team Metro Outreach Specialist.

Chairperson Betancourt assumed the Chair upon her arrival, and the CRA Board proceeded to consider the balance of the agenda.

Chairperson Betancourt noted an item pertaining to Miami-Dade Police Department's Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was not on tonight's agenda. She asked that CRA members review this draft, and that it be considered at a future meeting.

VII. Old Business

Community Policing

Chairperson Betancourt noted all CRA members received and reviewed a copy of the monthly community policing report entitled "Naranja Lakes CRA Initiative Monthly Progress Report," dated September 20, 2007, via email. She stated that the report would be received without discussion unless Sergeant Hernandez had additional information to provide.

Sergeant Ozzie Hernandez, Miami-Dade Police Department, Cutler Ridge District, noted that the pending executive summary, which was a synopsis of annual performances and crime statistics, would be provided at the next CRA meeting.

VIII. New Business

a. Resolution Naming the Mandarin Lakes Community Center after Officer Jose Somohano

It was moved by Mr. Archer that the CRA members approve the foregoing proposed resolution renaming the Naranja Lakes Community Center in the Mandarin Lakes Development as the "Officer Jose Somohano Community Center" in honor and memory of officer Somohano, who was killed in the line of duty. This motion was seconded by Mr. Infante for discussion.

Mr. Forbes spoke in opposition to the foregoing proposed resolution. He stated he felt it was presumptuous and self-serving for CRA members to rename the Community Center without input from citizens in the affected community. He noted he would not be opposed to placing a plaque within this facility in honor of Officer Somohano, but he objected to renaming the building.

Mr. Archer noted security and safety were the primary issues in the development of the Mandarin Lakes Community. He stated that the CRA, in conjunction with the Miami-Dade Police Department, implemented a security program to help foster the development of this project; and that Officer Somohano performed surveillance as part of this program and gave his life for this community. He stated it was an honor and privilege to name this facility after Officer Somohano.

Hearing no further comments, the CRA proceeded to vote on the foregoing motion as presented, and upon being put to a vote, the motion passed 6-1. (Mr. Forbes voted No), (Mr. Ramkissoon was absent)

IV. Approval of the Minutes

It was moved by Mr. Archer that the August 07, 2007 NLCRA Workshop Meeting be approved. This motion was seconded by Mr. Hakssa, and upon being put to a vote, passed unanimously by those members present.

It was moved by Mr. Archer that the August 27, 2007 NLCRA Regular Meeting minutes be approved. This motion was seconded by Mr. Hakssa. The CRA members agreed to vote on this motion to approve the minutes, pending the review and consensus of all members.

Later in the meeting, the CRA proceeded to vote on the foregoing motion as presented, and upon being put to a vote, the motion passed unanimously by those members present.

V. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Forbes requested all items pertaining to the Miami-Dade Police Department be heard immediately following the presentations of the Certificates of Appreciation.

Mr. Infante requested a status report from the Executive Director Selection Committee on the position of the Executive Director be added to the agenda under New Business.

Mr. Archer requested reports from the CRA's Police and Budget Committee Workshops be added to the agenda under New Business.

It was moved by Mr. Infante that tonight's agenda be approved as amended to consider first all items pertaining to the Miami-Dade Police Department following the presentations, and to add items requested by CRA members. This motion was seconded by Mr. Archer, and upon being put to a vote, passed unanimously by those members present.

VI. Open Forum for Public Comments

Chairperson Betancourt opened the floor for public input:

Mr. Phillip Murray, 13248 SW 256th Terrace, appeared before the CRA and noted he was aware that all Section 8 tenants must be certified by the end of the current month. He expressed concern that the tenants might not be aware of this requirement and could be out of housing. Regarding the renaming of the CRA Community Center after Officer Somohano, Mr. Murray expressed concern that the motion to approve the renaming of this facility without any public input from the surrounding residents was inappropriate.

VII. Old Business

Heritage Village

It was moved by Mr. Forbes that the Heritage Village Report be accepted as presented. This motion was seconded by Mr. Infante for discussion.

Mr. Archer expressed concern that the foregoing Heritage Village report did not include the information he previously requested regarding the number of units ready for occupancy and those units currently occupied. He stated he was hopeful that the Housing Agency would not wait until the project was completed before allowing people to move into the units ready for occupancy.

An extensive discussion ensued regarding the Miami-Dade Housing Agency's failure to provide the CRA with specific information requested in the Heritage Village reports.

Following discussion, it was moved by Mr. Archer that staff prepare a letter addressed to the County Manager notifying him of the CRA's frustration with the Housing Agency's noncompliance concerning action items and information requested by the CRA to be included in the Heritage Village Project report, specifically the total number of units completed and ready for occupancy; that this letter include the CRA's request to be provided with the total amount of funds expended on the Heritage Village project since its inception; and that a copy of this letter be sent to Commissioners Sorenson and Moss. This motion was seconded by Chairperson Betancourt, and upon being put to a vote, the motion passed unanimously by those members present.

Current re-zoning applications in the CRA

Mr. Iturrey advised that currently no re-zoning applications had been submitted for properties located within the NLCRA district.

Responding to Chairperson Betancourt's question regarding an application to rezone a property that was recently advertised to be heard before the Community Council, Mr. Iturrey noted staff researched the Zoning Department's website for current rezoning applications of properties within the CRA District and nothing was found. He noted, however, that the subject application may have been a pending application filed prior to the date staff began tracking this information.

Chairperson Betancourt noted she would forward this information to staff for further review.

Update on General Old Business

Mandarin Lakes

Hearing no objection, a motion was duly made, seconded and carried unanimously by those CRA members present to accept the report on the sales of Mandarin Lakes Homes submitted to the CRA via e-mail.

Infrastructure Construction

Mr. Ignacio Serralta, Construction Consultant/President, SRS Engineering Inc., appeared before the CRA and provided an update on the progress of the Infrastructure Construction project. He noted that Naranja Lakes Construction, LLC (NLC) and Solo Construction collaborated to correct and complete the outstanding items on the punch-out list; and that the Substantial Completion Walk-thru Inspection should take place in October 2007. He further noted that revisions to the Irrigation Design plan were completed and would be submitted to a contractor for proposal. Additionally, Mr. Serralta noted NLC and FPL were coordinating the installation and design of the lighting along Canal Street; and NLC had contracted with ELCI Construction to begin the Entrance Feature construction at SW 272nd Street and the Civic Center Plaza Entrance at SW 140th Avenue once the permit was obtained.

Mr. Serralta noted he would be meeting with NLC this week to discuss the ongoing bond issues and their work limited by the existing Letter of Credit. He noted the construction of the Civic Center Plaza and Canal Street Bridge should commence once these contract issues were resolved.

Responding to Mr. Forbes question regarding the number of outstanding items remaining on the punch-out list, Mr. Serralta noted approximately 15 items remained, which dealt mostly with signage.

In response to Mr. Archer's question regarding the anticipated date to begin construction of the Canal Street Bridge, Mr. Scott Hedge, Vice-President, Architecture and Planning for DeGuardiola Properties, noted that NLC had a contractor in mind to construct the bridge, but this matter needed to be discussed with Mr. Serralta, in addition to discussing NLC's capacity relative to the redevelopment agreement and the Letter of Credit, to ensure the work was being done. He noted he was hopeful that a contract would be in place by October to begin the construction of the bridge and they would soon see more vertical construction.

VIII. New Business

b. Discussion of Supreme Court Ruling on Strand v. Escambia County

Mr. Steven Zelkowitz, Legal Counsel for the CRA, addressed a report on properties dedicated to the CRA by D.R. Horton Construction, prior to addressing the Supreme Court Ruling on Strand v Escambia County. He noted he received a package from the attorney representing D.R. Horton Construction that stated their position with respect to the properties conveyed to the CRA. He noted they did not want construction to commence unless the properties were first conveyed to the CRA. Mr. Zelkowitz noted that in connection with such conveyance, the CRA should have its own insurance policy in place, as well as an agreement authorizing Naranja Lakes Construction, LLC to enter the properties to do the work. Mr. Zelkowitz noted it was not anticipated that D.R. Horton would be conveying these properties to the CRA before construction, and he would be working with their attorney on this issue.

Mr. Zelkowitz provided an overview of the Supreme Court ruling on Strand v. Escambia County. He noted that in the past year, the Courts handed down rulings on two cases that could substantially impact the CRA's powers as they relate to major redevelopment. One case, he noted, was a U.S. Supreme Court case that resulted in State legislation that impacted the CRA's ability to exercise eminent domain and the foregoing case would impact the CRA's power to issue bonds without first placing a referendum on a ballot. Mr. Zelkowitz noted the Florida Supreme Court based its ruling on an argument that all bonds backed by TIF revenues were a pledge of ad valorem revenues, and those bonds could not be issued without a referendum. He stated this decision was very important because of its impact on future debt structure of CRAs using Sunshine State Loans. Mr. Zelkowitz noted a motion for a rehearing was filed, along with motions on behalf of other government entities and CRA(s) to support the motion and appear as a friend of the Court. He stated that oral argument on the rehearing was scheduled for October 9, 2007.

Mr. Zelkowitz noted the Court considered this case as a priority and should have a decision within a few weeks. He suggested the CRA conduct a workshop to address how it could leverage itself based on this ruling. He also noted the Attorney General filed a motion regarding bonds previously issued and the Court indicated that any bonds validated before this decision were not subject to this ruling. Mr. Zelkowitz noted, however, the term “validated” needed to be clarified in terms of a court process or a decision based on the Florida Statue, which allowed CRA(s) to issue bonds.

Following a discussion regarding the impact of the Supreme Court’s ruling as it relates to the CRA’s FY2007-08 proposed budget, it was moved by Mr. Forbes that a workshop be scheduled within two weeks following the Supreme Court’s decision on the motion for rehearing, in order to discuss any impact of this ruling relative to the proposed NLCRA FY2007-08 Budget and any proposed amendments. This motion was seconded by Mr. Hakssa and upon being put to a vote, passed by a vote of 6-1 (Mr. Lipe voted No), (Mr. Ramkissoon was absent)

Mr. Lipe stated he felt this issue should be discussed at a Regular CRA meeting.

Mr. Zelkowitz noted any CRA members could contact him for additional information or copies of this case.

c. Lighting Cost Estimate

Mr. Iturrey noted the Public Works Department (PWD) provided a cost estimate of \$110,000 for design and installation of at least twelve lights along SW 144th Avenue from SW 280th Street to 280th Street. He noted the PWD would only maintain lighting installed on arterial roadways; however, it was possible that PWD could designate this roadway as an arterial road.

Chairwoman Betancourt stated this item was just a report from staff on the lighting estimate for this roadway and would be further discussed as part of the Budget discussion item.

Mr. Archer suggested the CRA also consider providing lighting for a roadway west of SW 137TH Avenue at SW 288th Street, which was near a school, and an area where the police department recommended additional lighting be placed.

d. Discussion and Adoption of 2007-08 Budget

Mr. Iturrey provided the CRA with an overview of the proposed Naranja Lakes CRA FY2007-08 Budget, and a proposed alternative operating budget that included an Executive Director Office. He noted the changes in the proposed budget included the cost of Direct County Support Staff for a full year, the total cost of the Grants Programs increased to \$30,000, and the cost of Community Policing increased by 5%. Mr. Iturrey noted the Clerk of Board would only be staffing future Regular CRA meetings. He noted that if a County staff person from the Office of Strategic Business Management was to transcribe the CRA workshops, it would cost approximately \$216 per meeting, but the CRA needed to discuss other alternatives.

Discussion ensued among CRA members and staff regarding suggested alternatives; meeting attendance and whether future CRA meetings should be held at the Naranja Community Center.

Chairperson Betancourt suggested a CRA member write a summation of the workshop meetings.

Mr. Iturrey noted an outside pool of transcribers did not exist except to provide verbatim transcripts, which was too costly. He suggested that staff record future workshops and provide a recording of the meeting to the CRA secretary to prepare the minutes. Mr. Iturrey noted the proposed budget reflected an increase in costs for line-item Clerk and Meeting to \$5,000, which would allow some flexibility.

During the foregoing discussion, a motion was duly made, seconded and carried to extend tonight's (09/24) meeting in order to complete the agenda.

Mr. Iturrey continued his presentation of the proposed NLCRA FY2007-08 Budget. He noted the CRA was able to maintain its budget for FY2006-07 without using any of its reserves. He noted a construction payment schedule and cash flow statement were provided with the proposed FY2007-08 Budget. He further noted the operating budget would result in a surplus, which would be carried over to the capital budget; but a funding gap would exist in the capital budget after deducting expenses. Mr. Iturrey further noted that funding gaps for the proposed and alternative budgets were reflected as \$4.295 million and \$4.366 million respectively; and the difference was due to a slightly higher operating cost in the alternative budget for the Executive Director Office. Mr. Iturrey noted that reflected in the cash flow statement was a \$4.2 million funding gap through September 2008, but the total funding gap by the end of year 2008 was estimated at \$5.4 million. He recommended the CRA request the total amount from the County Commission to fill the gap, in light of the possible impact of the pending court ruling on the Strand v. Escambia County case and other budget constraints.

Following a discussion regarding the current agreement between the CRA and the County, Mr. Zelkowitz advised that the CRA should rely on the current agreement and process in place to hold the County to fund the primary capital project, which would be paid back by the CRA in increments with TIF revenues, until the County says the CRA could no longer access the Sunshine State Loan based on the decision of Strand v. Escambia. He noted should the Court rule unfavorable for the CRAs, then the CRA would need to find other funding sources to pay back the County. Mr. Zelkowitz reminded CRA members that the current agreement was not approved by a referendum.

Chairwoman Betancourt stated she felt the solution for now would be to follow the process prescribed by Mr. Iturrey, which was to request the full amount of \$5.4 million from the County Commission to cover the funding gap.

Mr. Iturrey continued the budget presentation by addressing the Capital Fund Overview that reflected different stages of the capital project since inception; the differences between the two proposed budgets (Economic Developer Coordinator versus an Executive Director Office), and the transition and responsibilities of the CRA staff.

Chairperson Betancourt noted she forwarded the recommendation of the Executive Director Selection Committee (EDSC) to Mr. Zelkowitz, and asked him to present it.

Mr. Zelkowitz noted the EDSC consisted of Chairperson Betancourt, Mr. Infante and Mr. Archer. He presented the following recommendation: that the CRA enter in to a contract with an Economic Developer Coordinator (EDC) for a period of 6 month for a maximum of 25 hours per week in order to ensure that the EDC develops implementation strategies outlining short-term and long-term objectives that served to execute the development plan and ensure that the EDC use all possible means to strengthen the financial status of the CRA through public/private partnerships or through any other means.

Mr. Zelkowitz noted that at the conclusion of the six month period, the CRA be prepared to hire a full time Executive Director. He also noted the EDSC members met with the candidates who responded to the Request for Letters of Interest, and ranked them in order of preference as to whom they would like to go forward with in negotiations. He noted the top three candidates were as follows: Mr. Bryan Finnie, Mr. Robert P. Franke and Mr. Glenn Dale Vann.

Responding to Mr. Archer's comments regarding a discussion to keep the EDC on board, Mr. Infante noted it was discussed by the EDSC that at the end of the six month period, the CRA would advertise for an Executive Director.

Chairperson Betancourt noted the EDSC members discussed the possibility of a dual trial period for the EDC, along with the full time position of the Executive Director.

It was moved by Mr. Archer that the CRA accept the recommendation of the Executive Director Selection Committee, as stated by Mr. Zelkowitz and that the CRA appoint one CRA member to participate with the CRA's Legal Counsel in negotiations with the three top-ranking candidates. This motion was seconded by Mr. Infante for discussion.

Mr. Forbes' pointed out that the CRA members previously approved a motion to hire an Executive Director.

Mr. Infante clarified, for the record, that the motion was amended at Mr. Lipe's request to expand the EDSC's mission to consider hiring an Economic Development Coordinator.

Ms. Volkert pointed out that the CRA had not advertised for an Executive Director, but only published a Request for a Letter of Interest.

Chairperson Betancourt read into the record, motions from previous NLCRA meeting minutes. She noted the EDSC acted upon those motions, and their recommendations fell within the directions of those motions.

Following further discussion, Mr. Iturrey noted the alternative proposed budget included details of the Executive Director Office and an Economic Developer Coordinator. The other proposed budget, he noted, included line-items reflecting costs of an Economic Development Coordinator

and CRA Direct Support Staff. Mr. Iturrey noted the EDC would begin during the third quarter of the year.

Chairperson Betancourt requested clarification on the pending motion made by Mr. Archer.

Mr. Zelkowitz clarified the motion was a two-part motion as follows: that the CRA accept the Executive Director Selection Committees' recommendation to hire an EDC for a six-month period on a part-time basis, and explore hiring an Executive Director at the end of the six month period. The second part of the motion was that a CRA member be appointed to participate with Legal Counsel for the CRA in negotiations with the three top-ranking candidates for the EDC position.

Mr. Forbes requested a vote be taken on the motion on the floor. The CRA proceeded to vote on the pending motion, and upon being put to a vote, the motion passed by a vote of 4-3 (Chairperson Betancourt, Mr. Lipe and Ms. Volkert voted No), (Mr. Ramkissoo was absent)

Chairperson Betancourt noted she would have supported the foregoing motion but wanted clarification on the process before proceeding with the vote.

Ms. Volkert noted her primary concern was with the process.

In response to Mr. Iturrey's comments that the budget be amended to reflect the foregoing action, Mr. Zelkowitz suggested the proposed budget reflect a lump sum amount for the CRA Support Staff, and that it be capped in order to prevent interference with the negotiations of the candidates.

Mr. Zelkowitz noted the issue was whether the CRA would hire the EDC as an employee or as a consultant. He noted that pursuant to the bylaws, the CRA must follow the County's procedures and procurement process for an RFP, if hiring a consultant. He noted the CRA did follow an RFQ process to some extent by advertising a Request for Letters of Interest, which was published on the FRA website, but he would discuss this further with the County Attorney. He further noted the CRA could go forward with hiring the EDC as an employee, subject to the requirement of providing payroll and benefits.

Chairperson Betancourt noted the EDSC discussed using a Leasing Employment Agency to hire an EDC as an employee.

Following a discussion among CRA members and staff regarding the need to amend the budget and suggestions, it was moved by Mr. Forbes that the CRA follow the recommendation of Mr. Zelkowitz to include a lump sum amount in the proposed budget for the Administrative Cost and that it be capped. (This motion was not seconded)

Mr. Iturrey suggested the Economic Development Coordinator line-item be combined with the CRA Support Staff Office line-item for a total lump sum amount of \$216,187. He advised that a CRA member would need to be present at the BCC meeting to justify and support the proposed increased of the Administrative Cost in this budget. Mr. Iturrey noted it was important that the

CRA ensure it had an adopted budget before beginning negotiations with the selected candidates for the EDC position.

Mr. Infante nominated Mr. Archer to participate with Legal Counsel for the CRA in the negotiations of the three top-ranking candidates for the EDC position.

Mr. Zelkowitz noted the importance of establishing the parameters concerning whether to hire an employee or consultant.

Mr. Infante noted the EDSC never discussed hiring a consultant but to hire a part-time employee for the CRA.

Following the request of CRA members to proceed with discussion on the remaining budget line-items, Mr. Zelkowitz indicated that Sergeant Hernandez requested the funding amount allocated for Community Policing needed to be increased by approximately \$38,000.

It was moved by Mr. Archer that the proposed FY2007-08 Budget be amended to increase the Community Policing costs to \$306,762. This motion was seconded by Mr. Forbes for discussion.

Mr. Archer noted the CRA's Budget Subcommittee spent several hours with the Miami-Dade Police Department (MDPD) reviewing a detailed report; and they agreed that while the existing contract was fine, minor adjustments should be made to provide more flexibility to accomplish their mission, which resulted in the subject figure.

Chairperson Betancourt noted the document entitled "Naranja Lakes Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) Initiative-Yearly Budget Report for FY2007-08 reported by Sergeant Oswaldo D. Hernandez," outlined a 7% contractual increase; a new project called Reside Empowering Neighborhood Enforcement Walk (RENEW); and the total anticipated budget for MDPD community policing at \$306,762.

Mr. Zelkowitz advised that the MDPD would like the CRA to consider at its next meeting a proposed agreement that included a number of items. He suggested the CRA adopt the proposed budget tonight to include an amount that covered this agreement to prevent any further amendment to this budget. He noted that including this amount in the budget would not mean the CRA approved the proposed MDPD agreement.

Chairperson Betancourt suggested the amount not be linked to a specific line-item but that it be increased to allow flexibility for other items. She noted this amount did not have to be fully expended.

Mr. Forbes requested the CRA members vote on the pending motion to increase the budgeted amount for Community Policing to \$306,762, and upon being put to a vote, this motion passed by a vote of 6-1 (Chairperson Betancourt voted No), (Mr. Ramkissoon was absent)

Following discussion, it was moved by Mr. Forbes that the foregoing motion be reconsidered for an amendment to include Chairperson Betancourt's recommendation that the lime item be a larger amount to allow flexibility. This motion was seconded by Chairperson Betancourt, and upon being put to a vote, passed unanimously by those members present.

Chairperson Betancourt suggested the line-item entitled "Community Policing" be changed to "Community Policing and Security" and that the amount be increased to \$350,000.

Following further discussion, it was moved by Mr. Forbes that the budgeted amount for line-item Community Policing be increased to \$325,000. This motion was seconded by Mr. Archer, and upon being put to a vote, passed by a vote of 5-2. (Mr. Lipe and Ms. Volkert voted No), (Mr. Ramkissoon was absent)

It was moved by Mr. Archer that the proposed budget include a line-item cost of \$110,000 for lighting to be installed along SW 140th Avenue. This motion was seconded by Mr. Forbes for discussion.

Mr. Infante asked how the CRA could justify lighting for one street without being obligated to the entire CRA district. He expressed concern that the lighting estimate for this street was too costly and noted he could not support it.

Mr. Forbes noted he supported the foregoing motion based on the MDPD's recommendation for more lighting in this area and based on the CRA's charge to eliminate slum and blight.

Ms. Volkert recommended the proposed budget include funding for a study on lighting needs within the entire CRA district rather than provide lighting for a specific area.

Mr. Infante suggested this study be included as part of the EDC's job requirements.

Mr. Archer stated that he could support identifying \$110,000 under a general category, but that the intent of his motion was to decrease crime and attract buyers to the CRA's primary development project, Mandarin Lakes. He noted it was important to have lighting on the subject roadway for the safety of children walking to school.

Following further discussion, Mr. Hakssa suggested the line-item be identified as Enhanced Lighting and Surveys at a cost of \$110,000, as an amendment to the foregoing motion.

The CRA proceeded to vote on the foregoing motion as amended, as suggested by Mr. Hakssa. Upon being put to a vote, the motion passed unanimously by those members present.

Mr. Forbes suggested an amount be included in the proposed budget for Contractual Services to administer the costs of the CRA employee.

Responding to Mr. Archer's suggestion that \$10,000 be allocated for Contractual Services (5% of the total salary cost), Chairperson Betancourt pointed out that staff would not be administering the entire amount because part of that amount included building an office.

It was moved by Chairperson Betancourt that an amount of \$10,000 for Contractual Services be included in the proposed budget, with instruction to staff to adjust that number accordingly after determining the true cost of the salary. This motion was seconded by Mr. Infante, and upon being put to a vote, passed unanimously by those members present.

In response to Chairperson Betancourt's request for an explanation on the increased cost of the Grants Programs, Mr. Iturrey explained that the CRA requested the Grants Program be increased to a total of \$100,000. He noted that after subtracting the \$70,000 provided by OCED, staff split the \$30,000 balance between the Residential and Commercial Grants programs using the same ratio previously used in last year's budget.

At the request of CRA members, Mr. Iturrey summarized the proposed NLCRA FY2007-08 Budget with changes as follows: that the revenues would not be adjusted; \$10,000 would be allocated for Contractual Services with direction to staff to adjust that number after determining the appropriate salary and procedural costs for hiring the EDC as employee or consultant; that the amount allocated for Community Policing would be increased to \$325,000; that a line-item entitled "Enhanced Lighting and Surveys" at \$110,000 be included; and that the line-item entitled "Economic Development Coordinator" be removed. Mr. Iturrey noted the changes in effect, would lower the total amount of the Operating Budget (revenues less expenditures) to be carried over to the Capital Budget, which would decrease the total revenues in the Capital Budget and slightly increase the funding gap.

Mr. Iturrey noted the CRA needed to conduct a future discussion on the responsibilities and duties of the Direct County Support Staff as it relates to the CRA once the EDC was hired. He stated he was unsure of what the County's position would be on whether to relinquish the \$4 million Trust fund set aside to cover County Support staff once these functions ceased. Mr. Iturrey suggested the CRA approve its proposed budget but not forward it to the TIF Committee or Full BCC until the Court renders its final decision on *Stand v. Escambia County*. He noted he believed the CRA had at least a month to obtain the appropriate financing.

Mr. Zelkowitz suggested the proposed budget be accepted by the CRA and forwarded to the County Commission for approval, and let the TIF Committee make the decisions on the appropriate funding mechanisms based on the outcome of the subject court case.

It was moved by Mr. Archer that the CRA accept the proposed NLCRA FY2007-08 Budget as amended and forward it to the BCC for approval. This motion was seconded by Mr. Forbes for discussion.

Responding to Mr. Infante's concerns, Chairperson Betancourt noted she was comfortable with Mr. Zelkowitz's suggestion that the foregoing proposed Budget be accepted as amended, forwarded to the BCC for approval and then presented to the TIF Committee.

Mr. Iturrey noted a TIF Committee Meeting was scheduled for October 4, 2007.

The CRA proceeded to vote on the pending motion on the floor. Upon being put to a vote, the motion passed unanimously by those members present.

Ms. Volkert stated she approved the foregoing budget, but she did not believe the CRA followed the appropriate due process in hiring the Economic Development Coordinator.

Chairperson Betancourt concurred with Ms. Volkert's assessment of the process. She noted she thought it was more important to honor a job description, and that the responses of the three candidates interviewed to date came to the CRA prior to advertising and that the CRA did not have a fair opportunity to look at other candidates who might be interested in this position.

Mr. Forbes stated he felt it was not necessary to incorporate the best practices, but that the CRA had spun its wheels for a long time on this issue, and he was pleased with the process.

Mr. Archer noted the three top-ranking candidates were highly qualified for the areas that the CRA was interested in accomplishing. He pointed out that although an exact job description was not provided, a lot of information was shared, and he was pleased with the outcome. Mr. Archer commended County staff on what they had accomplished for the CRA but pointed out that staff did not have the time to go out into the community. He commended Chairperson Betancourt for her leadership in the Selection Committee process.

Next Meeting Dates:

Mr. Iturrey suggested the last CRA workshop scheduled for October 9, 2007, be rescheduled to accommodate the requested workshop to be called within two weeks following the Court's ruling on the Strand v. Escambia County Case.

It was moved by Mr. Forbes that the October 9, 2007 Workshop be cancelled. This motion was seconded by Mr. Lipe, and upon being put to a vote, passed unanimously by those members present.

Chairperson Betancourt announced that the next NLCRA Regular Board meeting would be held on October 29, 2007 at 6:00 p.m.

IX. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before this Board, the Naranja Lakes Community Redevelopment Agency meeting was adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

Nina Betancourt, Chairperson
Naranja Lakes Community Redevelopment Agency