

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
STUART COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY
TO BE HELD APRIL 25, 2011
AT 5:00 PM IN THE CITY COMMISSION CHAMBERS
121 S.W. FLAGLER AVE.
STUART, FLORIDA 34994**

**Chairperson Jeffrey Krauskopf
Vice Chairperson James Christie Jr.
Board Member Michael Mortell
Board Member Eula Clarke
Board Member Troy McDonald
Board Member Johnnie Bell
Board Member Samia Ferraro**

**Also in attendance were:
City Manager Dan Hudson
City Attorney Paul J. Nicoletti
City Clerk Cheryl White (absent)
Deputy City Clerk Alice Lyons**

GENERAL COMMENTS

Mayor Krauskopf announced that he has received many emails and calls regarding the Colorado Avenue roadway proposal. He asked that if any plan is developed a timeline and cost should be included in the proposal. He said the most important email he received was from Jim Bruner. He said the email reminded him of the commitment that his company made after the hurricanes and the reestablishment of Dr. Menninger flowering trees along East Ocean Blvd. He said this was the key factor in winning the Most Beautiful Community Award.

ACTION AGENDA

- 1. Request to approve the minutes of the Community Redevelopment Agency of December 22, 2010**

**MOTION: JAMES A. CHRISTIE JR.: MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES
SECOND: TROY MCDONALD
MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

- 2. Colorado Avenue Business District Improvements**

Theresa Lamar-Sarno CRA Coordinator gave a brief overview and power point presentation of the proposed project.

Joe Capra gave a visual presentation to the CRA and public regarding the redesign of Colorado Avenue, and conceptual plan four.

The following persons came forward to offer public comment:

Dave Collier stated this project has been discussed for a number of years, and he was happy to see it moving forward. He also stated he serves on the Main Street Board and advised the Board that you will see several Main Street members comment on different subjects. He also noted how well the Sailfish Circle project was done, and thanked Sam Amerson, Public Works Director his work on that project.

Gene Rifkin came forward and stated she was in favor of the project and for many positive reasons.

Jim Bruner came forward and was in favor of the proposed project. He also said that his company would look at finding money for the planting of Tabebuia Trees along the Colorado roadway, just like East Ocean Blvd.

Amy Pearlstine came forward and stated she was in favor of the proposed project.

Boyd Bradfield came forward and was in favor of slowing down the traffic and beautifying the Colorado Corridor. He felt the businesses would do better.

Anne MacMillan came forward and was in favor of the proposed project. She noted many other organizations and petitioners who were in favor of the project.

Mike Braid came forward to state he was in favor of the proposed project.

Roger Bernot came forward and said that one of the biggest problems is keeping businesses in business along the Colorado Avenue corridor. He was also in favor of roundabout because they move traffic through. He also noted the number of cars that try to make a u-turn and if there was a roundabout it would allow the cars to go back onto East Ocean Blvd.

Armond Pasquale came forward and suggested building an arch at the corner of Colorado and US 1 and was not in support of the proposed 2 lane Colorado Avenue.

Larry Buchanan came forward and stated he was not in agreement with the proposed plan, but was in favor of the proposed plan #3. He said it met all the needs of everyone. He encouraged everyone to look at proposal #3. He also expressed concern over the money that would be spent in these economic times.

Ron Paradise came forward to thank the CRA Department. He also stated the property owners have a lot to lose with this plan. He said he was in favor of plan #3 with four lanes .

Raul Ocampo Jr. President of Stuart Main Street came forward and was in support of the proposal presented. He named many supporters and felt the City should move forward.

Terry McCarthy came forward and stated that Stuart Main Street supports the plan presented. He noted that this plan would create an opportunity to positively impact the City of Stuart for decades.

Susan O'Rourke came forward and stated she conducted an evaluation of the proposal as a certified traffic engineer, and in noted that the design would work and was happy the City took this position and was happy that the City listened to the residents and business owners and presented a good mix of form and function plan, and she encouraged the CRA to support the proposal.

Patty O'Connell, President of the Downtown Business Association came forward and stated they were in full support and agreement with Stuart Main Street, and the Colorado plan. She said that Colorado Avenue is the gateway to downtown Stuart.

Julie Preast came forward and stated that she was in favor of the proposal for Colorado Avenue. She read an article regarding a reduction of lanes to Lake Avenue in Lake Worth and the positive effect to the downtown. She encouraged the CRA to consider the proposed plan.

Joe Capra came forward to clarify the reasons the four lane plan was looked at differently, and why it went back to the two lanes. He explained that they tried to stay within the curb to curb plan without any disruptions to storm water or any underground systems, and to keep four lanes with all that is proposed would be more expensive. He also noted the sidewalks would need to be reduced from 7 feet to 5 feet. He thanked Susan O'Rourke, who did traffic study on her own time and money, and who supports the hybrid plan proposed tonight. He said if we want to get this grant we need to move now. He said that Martin County is also aware of the proposal to reduce the roadway to two lanes.

Vice Chair Christie asked how the recommendations from Dan Burden would be incorporated into the plan.

Joe Capra said that his suggestions were to create walk ability, and they would make effort to do is recommended, during the final plan details. He said the work could begin in April of next year if all is approved and the grant money is received.

Samia Ferraro asked if any consideration been given to additional parking along Kindred Street.

Mr. Capra said they are working within a budget and could be phased in.

Samia Ferraro questioned the benefit of a light at Kindred instead of a roundabout.

Mr. Capra said that it would be difficult to bring a four land roadway into a roundabout.

Board Member Bell asked about the backup of traffic with a train.

Mr. Capra said the plan includes room for backup of traffic when there is a train.

Vice Chair Christie said he was pleased with the answers he had received. He noted that he has been through 4 like projects in the past, but he said that once those projects were complete there were no more complaints.

Board Member Clarke asked specific details of what the roundabout and landscaping would look like. She also asked that the plan include more to assure that there is connectivity going throughout the entire city, and making the rest of the City vibrant, and not just Colorado Ave.

Mr. Capra explained that he would present furthers details at a later date.

Board Member McDonald announced he would have a voting conflict on this matter and has filed a Form B, with the City Clerk. He asked the City to look at lane improvements at the intersection of US1 and Colorado Ave.

Mr. Capra said the County is in the process of making some improvements to that intersection. He said the DOT was looking positively in transferring the funds for those improvements.

Board Member McDonald did inquire into additional improvements to the Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd near the Supervisor of Elections office. He asked about signage on US 1 to reroute traffic away from Colorado Avenue onto Kindred and other streets. This may alleviate some of the traffic on Colorado. He also requested looking at improving pedestrian crossing at the rail road tracks.

Mr. Capra said he would look into that matter. He advised that the plans include improvements to crosswalks for pedestrians. He indicated there are 7 feet sidewalks leading up to the rail road in the proposed plan. There is also a safe island crossing plans for Flagler Ave and Colorado at confusion corner.

MOTION: EULA CLARKE : MOTION APPROVAL OF CONCEPTUAL PLAN 4.

SECOND: JAMES A CHRISTIE JR.

ROLL CALL:

CHAIRPERSON KRAUSKOPF	YES	MIKE MORTELL	YES
SAMIA FERRARO	YES	JAMES A CHRISTIE JR.	YES
TROY MCDONALD	ABSTAIN	JOHNNIE BELL	YES
EULA CLARKE	YES		

ADJOURNMENT : 6:32 P.M.

Cheryl White, Board Secretary

Jeffrey A. Krauskopf, Chairperson

**Minutes approved at the Regular CRA
Meeting This 25th Day of May 2011**