

**MERRITT ISLAND REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY
MINUTES OF AUGUST 28 2003**

Members Present: Bert Francis, II, Chairman
Sandee Natowich, Vice-Chairman
Mike Selig
Roddy Kring
Michelle Daignault-Ives

Members Absent: Duane Watson
Bob Barranco

Agency Staff: Doug Robertson, MIRA Consultant
Staci Van Ness, MIRA Executive Secretary

County Staff: Scott Knox, County Attorney

Guests: Commissioner Ron Pritchard, District II
Ralph Perrone, Perrone Properties
Andrew Moos, Florida Jaycees
Denny Emory, Metropolitan Systems Inc.
Frank DiResta

NEXT REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 25, 2003, 2:00 P.M., MERRITT ISLAND GOVERNMENT CENTER, 2575 N. COURTENAY PARKWAY, ROOM 205, MERRITT ISLAND.

Chairman Francis called the meeting to order. All were present except those indicated above.

The minutes of the July 24, 2003 meeting were reviewed.

MOTION MADE BY MICHELLE DAIGNALUT-IVES, SECONDED BY RODDY KRING, APPROVING THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 24, 2003 BOARD MEETING AS CORRECTED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agenda Item No. 1 – Discussion Re: Junior Chamber of Commerce Benches on Merritt Island

Chairman Francis introduced Denny Emory of Metropolitan Systems Inc., The service company that called Merritt Island Redevelopment Agency office to address the MIRA Board. Mr. Robertson gave a brief overview on how this issue has developed. The MIRA Board feels like the benches are causing visual blight whose primary function is advertising.

The Board had asked the staff to bring the issue before the County Commission to see if it could either reduce the number or eliminate the benches and it was placed on the County Agenda, which was postponed when Mr. Emory called to address the MIRA Board. Keith Coffman, the president of the Merritt Island Jaycees could not attend the meeting and asked that the State Chairman of the Florida Jaycees, Andrew Moose attend in his place. Mr. Moose represents the Bench Program across the State of Florida. Mr. Emory handed out a letter that was sent March 10, 2003 addressed to Bill Osborne of Brevard County regarding the benches. Some of the Jaycee benches are grandfathered in at Bus stop routes per Mr. Emory. Jaycee benches can be identified by the triangle on the back of the bench. Mr. Emory addressed the "bandit benches" and that if they were removed it would make a huge difference on the way the community looks. Per Mr. Emory "this is the biggest project the Jaycee's have". The Jaycee benches have a \$1,000,000.00 liability policy with a 3,000,000.00 umbrella and the bandit benches are not covered at all. Mr. Robertson referenced the inventory list created by Jim Leisenfelt, Director of SCAT that showed which benches were Jaycee owned and where were considered "Bandit" benches. There was a lengthy discussion on some of the advertisers on the benches and if the benches were indeed permitted by the County. Mr. Emory stated that membership in civic organizations such as Crosswinds and Big Brothers and Big Sisters were declining yearly and that advertising on the benches was a way to keep them active. Chairman Frances asked if the original agreement was ever limited to a certain number of benches and certain locations, Mr. Emory's reply was no it was not. Mr. Emory stated that about four years ago they met with the County and established new guidelines so now the benches can only go at bus stops and or points of public convenience that had been so designated in the past. Mr. Robertson asked the question of whether the majority of the benches were grandfathered in and are not part of the new agreement. Mr. Emory felt that only 5 or 6 would have been grandfathered in. Chairman Francis asked the County Attorney what we could do to clean up the "Bandit" benches, since there is no agreement with the County. Mr. Knox replied that they have no legal recourse and they could be picked up and removed. Members of the MIRA Board felt that there should be a notice sent to the advertisers on the "Bandit" benches so they would know that the County would be removing the benches as they are in place illegally. Per Mr. Knox it is a County Ordinance violation. Vice-Chairman Natowich asked the question of where did the profits for the Jaycee bench program go to? Mr. Moose said it went for the insurance policy and for the personnel to maintain the benches, to go back into other projects within the community. Commissioner Pritchard asked how much of the money actually goes to Big Brothers and Big Sisters and Crosswinds. Commissioner Pritchard stated that he has gotten several complaints in his office because of the benches and the visual disarray they are in. Mr. Moose stated that there are benches that have advertisement on them that do not pay a monthly or yearly fee. Commissioner Pritchard was a Jaycee in Broward County and thinks it is a worthwhile organization, but they need to find another way to generate money other than advertising on benches. Mr. Robertson made a reference to the Jaycee contract and the addendum to the contract with Brevard County; the most recent contract requires that the bench be at bus stops, Mr. Emory agreed. Mr. Robertson continued his statement with any bench that is not at a designated bus stop is a grandfathered in bench of some sort and since you've acknowledged that you think they should be at bus stops you would be willing to remove

those benches. Mr. Emory replied with “absolutely”, they would move them to the bus stops and he doesn’t understand why they aren’t currently but that they would comply with the contract. Mr. Emory made the statement that he has worked with the County for years and he has no problem doing so now and that every single one of his benches except for the four or five that were grandfathered in are at bus stops, and that he noticed driving up here that they have shortened the route on Courtenay. He has not been notified of the route change. Chairman Francis asked if there were any bus stops located in front of commercial establishments, and if so special attention would have to be paid if moving benches around to ensure that advertising for one business is not being done in front of the same sort of business.

MOTION MADE BY SANDEE NATOWICH, SECONDED BY RODDY KRING, THAT CODE ENFORCEMENT BE NOTIFIED TO REMOVE “BANDIT” BENCHES . MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOTION MADE BY SANDEE NATOWICH, SECONDED BY RODDY KRING, TO RECOMMEND TO THE COUNTY COMMISSION TO HAVE THE JAYCEE’S REMOVE ALL BENCHES WITHIN THE MIRA AREA NOT ON SCAT BUS ROUTE . MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agenda Item No. 2 – Discussion Re: Advertising Banners and Balloons within the Merritt Island Redevelopment Area

Mr. Robertson gave an update on this topic and where we are with it with the Brevard County land development dept. Though absent, Board member Duane Watson that the Board revisit this issue because he wanted to address an item that was eliminated in the last meeting, Item H: allowing special events to last up to 10 days. Board Member Michelle Daignault-Ives felt that Item H, was supposed to have been added into Item E’s language. Mr. Robertson clarified that there are 2 separate ordinances, the sign ordinance, which deals with balloons and banners, and the special events ordinance that only deals with special events. So when we start modifying the language we are going to be doing it to both ordinances. Board Member Roddy Kring asked if car sales would fall under special events and the answer was yes. There was discussion as to who would be unable to qualify if the 250,000 sq. ft. of gross leaseable space threshold was approved, and it was determined that it would just be strip malls. Mr. Robertson went over the proposed language changes with staff except for Item H and they felt that this would be acceptable. Mr. Robertson will have to present the 10-day time limit to County Staff as a separate ordinance.

MOTION MADE BY SANDEE NATOWICH, SECONDED BY RODDY KRING, RECOMMEND THAT ITEM H BE PRESENTED BY MR. ROBERTSON AS PART OF THE SPECIAL EVENTS ORDINANCE WITH THE WORDING THAT SPECIAL EVENTS BE ALLOWED TO LAST UP TO SIX DAYS WITHIN THE MERRITT ISLAND REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY. MOTION PASSED. 4 TO 1 MIKE SEILG VOTING AGAINST.

Agenda Item No. 3 Approval Re: Electrical Quote for Damaged Electrical Junction Boxes in Merritt Park Place

Mr. Robertson made the MIRA Board aware that some of the junction boxes are broken due to being hit by cars in Merritt Park Place and need to be fixed before they become a hazard. They are going to be placed underground so that they will not become damaged again. Right now there are only five. We requested 3 quotes but only 2 came in and the lowest was Cape Electric who was the original contractor to do the electrical work within Merritt Park Place.

MOTION MADE BY MICHELLE DAIGNAULT-IVES, SECONDED BY RODDY KRING, TO ACCEPT CAPE ELECTRIC BID TO REPAIR ELECTRICAL JUNCTION BOXES WITHIN 30 DAYS. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

There was more discussion concerning Cape Electric because there is a Timer/Photo Cell on McLeod Street that needs to be replaced for the lights. They are staying on all day. This repair needs to be included in the purchase order to Cape Electric. MIRA needs to get an estimate from Cape Electric and then add it to the purchase order not to exceed \$150.00

Agenda Item No. 4 –Approval Re: Façade Improvement Consultants

At the July Board meeting Board Members requested that individuals be retained, who have the ability to provide renderings for Façade Improvement these drawings will provide the applicants with a visual concept of what their building potential is. Staff was able to find 2 people that met the criteria. Their proposal range was within \$50.00 of each other. It was recommended by the Beautification Committee that we should retain both parties since they are so close in price and there are enough projects to utilize them efficiently. Board member Mike Selig suggested a non-profit program called Stars with Teens. The Agency may be able to use them to do murals at some point. The MIRA Board would like to see a CAP put on what the Consultants would be paid per project. Board Member Sandee Natowich suggested \$500.00

MOTION MADE BY SANDEE NATOWICH, SECONDED BY RODDY KRING, TO ACCEPT FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT RENDERING CONSULTANTS AND AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$500.00 PER PROJECT. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Agenda Item No. 5 –Approval Re: Façade Improvement Application (Walter Dyer)

Sandee Natowich presented this item to the MIRA Board on behalf of Mr. Walter Dyer. Mr. Dyer felt that he needed to upgrade his building and wants to have it look similar to what the Publix Property behind his building looks like. His application covers a metal awning, soffit, fascia, paint and clean up, everything that is front facing to the road.

MOTION MADE BY MIKE SELIG, SECONDED BY SANDEE NATOWICH, TO ACCEPT FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT APPLICATION OF MR. WALTER DYER. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Agenda Item No. 6 – Beautification Report

Board Member Sandee Natowich discussed the Façade Improvement Workshop on September 18, 2003 at 4:30 P.M. immediately following the next Beautification Committee Meeting. She stated that the Press Tribune is giving us great coverage on the Façade Improvement program. She gave a brief overview of the private parking issue within Merritt Park Place and that Code Enforcement have now been notified concerning the infractions. Also bollards were brought up. Mr. Robertson brought a sample post to the Beautification meeting and the Committee discussed how it could possibly be used to deflect traffic from the turn around sections of Grove and McLeod Streets and to stop the sidewalks from being damaged. The Committee is still trying to determine what is feasible for the Sykes Creek and Merritt Avenue intersection as far as landscape/hardscape. Also, there have been several comments and questions about the possibility of the expansion of the MIRA Area, North to Lucas Road or South to Manor Drive. Ms. Natowich stated that a pepper bust was slated for Saturday September 13, 2003; at 8:00–12:00 off of Sykes Creek at the Ullamay Reserve Area all Committee and Board members are encouraged to participate. She also reported on the status of the Brazilian Pepper trees on SR 528 and what the Agency or the County could possibly do to remove them. The FDOT will not remove them because they aren't encroaching on private property.

Agenda Item No. 7 – Staff Report

Mr. Robertson referenced the letter that was handed out regarding the Stormwater Project, and what the status is on that. Ron Jones, Director of Brevard County Regional Stormwater Department wanted to review the documentation before it came to Mr. Robertson, therefore Bussen Mayer Engineering Group was not able to give an update at this time. The Change of Use Ordinance will be on the County Commission Agenda for September 16, 2003. Mr. Robertson will have more renderings and pricing at the next meeting.

Agenda Item No. 8 – Other Business

MOTION MADE BY SANDEE NATOWICH, SECONDED BY MICHELLE DAIGNAULT-IVES, TO ADJOURN. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Meeting adjourned 4:00 p.m.