

Lehigh Acres Community Planning Corporation, Inc.

February 9, 2005 Minutes

Call to Order by President Fleming @ 7:10 PM

Roll Call by Recording Secretary

Present

- ✓ Jim Fleming, Frank LaRosa, Bo Turbeville, John Dixon Morrow, Azelma Simmons, Liz Eilf, Charlie Difelice, Desmond Barrett, Keith Richter, John Miller, Wayne Elrod, Dr Duncan, Colin Feng

Excused

- ✓ Willard Baker

Invocation

Pledge of Allegiance by Vice President LaRosa

Open Public Comment on the Following Agenda Items

- ❖ Frank Lohlein voiced his concerns re:
 - Liability concern
 - Removal of the Chair
 - Referendum – feels the people should still have the final say
- ❖ Kevin Shea voiced his concerns re:
 - Re-election of officers
 - Miller's request for petty cash (agenda item 9) felt it should be a Treasurer's decision
 - Possible conflict of interest by Desmond Barrett (agend item 14)
- ❖ Robert Anderson voiced his concerns re:
 - No accounting of fund by the committee
 - Eg funds expended by John Miller for booth at the Spring Festival
 - Sgt of Arms (agenda item 5)
 - Chair and officers election (agenda item 1)
 - Petty Cash (agenda item 9)
- ❖ Mike Welch announced:
 - His creation of a message board – where members can interact and remain within the Sunshine Laws (lehighcomputerguy.com)
 - Another audience member suggested linking LACPC (will be done)
- ❖ Conchita Borousch clarified as to why the booth for the Spring Festival was obtained prior to a Board Meeting
 - Time was an issue
 - Sunshine laws were an issue

ORGANIZATIONAL AGENDA:

1. Review and Approval of the Agenda
 - Desmond Barrett – strike Item 14 – acted on by ECWCD
 - John Dixon Morrow – remove Item 3
 - Frank LaRosa – questioned why DiFelice & Barrett abstained from voting on (Motion 38)
 - Fleming informed LaRosa that was their right to abstain and not state why

(MOTION M40) Motion Approved – to accept Feb Meeting Agenda as written

2. Review and Approval of the Minutes of the Meetings of February 9, 2005
(MOTION M41) Motion Approved – to accept Feb Meeting Minutes as written (all in favor with the exception of LaRosa)

3. Motion by Charlie DiFelice for re-election of all officers
 - Discussion by Board
 - Fleming stated he uttered during the Jan Meeting that the Jan Meeting would be the Annual Meeting
 - It was brought up that the meeting was never advertised as being the “Annual Meeting”

(MOTION M42) Motion made to discuss the re-election of officers (Barrett –seconded the motion for the sake of discussion)

- Fleming stepped aside as chair during the discussion / LaRosa chaired during the interim
- DiFelice stated the face of the Board had changed, many new members now in place
- Fleming stated he would not run for chair again, stated he was to be chair of ECWD
- DiFelice stated he would like to see the 1year election for officers be in July
- Judah stated he would like to see a motion for legal clarification re: the Annual Meeting
- Fleming is to contact legal council and report the answer from legal re: the Annual Meeting

(MOTION M43) Motion failed - for the election of new officers in July with nomination in June

4. Approval of LACPC logo and corporate i.d. program
 - Fleming introduced the old Lehigh Corporation Logo, stated permission was grandfathered to use Logo
 - Bill Livingston – donated a flag with the Logo on it to the Board
 - Myra – felt identification should be included with the logo not just near the logo
 - Hopi – stated he would clean-up the logo and add the LACPC wording to the edge of the Logo and submit it to the Board

5. Board Ratification of Chairman Fleming's nomination of Pat McDonald as Sergeant at Arms
 - Fleming stated he spoke with Sheriff Mike Scott who support Pat's nomination for Sergeant of Arms

6. Amend Articles of Incorporation to include Dr. George Duncan as a Board Member
 - Will be discussed and done at a future date (semi-annual)
 - Item withdrawn

7. Amend By-Laws as revised on January 12, 2005
 - By-Laws did not need amending
 - Item withdrawn

8. Motion by Member Liz Eilf to change the name of a Subcommittee
 - Health / Social Services / Civic Subcommittee

(MOTION M44) – approved to revise name of sub-committee

9. Motion by Member John Miller to Establish a Petty Cash Fund for the work and supplies of the Recording Secretary

(MOTION M45) – approved to allow \$150 Petty Cash Fund to be established for the Recording Secretary's needs

10. Rescinding of Referendum of the final plan prior to submission to BOCC – Motion originally made by Frank LaRosa – voted on Jan 12th Community Planning Agenda
 - Miller spoke to remove the Referendum
 - LaRosa felt people should have their say
 - Richter stated you are damn'd if you do and damn'd if you don't
 - Morrow stated it was the Community's responsibility to solicit for a Referendum not the LACPC Board
 - Lohlein stated he felt the the contract language should include the Referendum
 - Feng stated we should not take an adversarial approach; should respect the County; and we needed to get subcommittees rolling
 - Myra stated these meetings were open to all; opinions could be given at these meetings; only 25% of the population turns out to vote; urged the board to take the \$25,000 seed money and get something done
 - Welch felt the referendum should stay
 - Barrett stated Lohlein can exploit issues; we need to support our BOCC
 - LaRosa got up from the table and sat across from the Board for the remainder of the meeting; stated Fleming didn't recognize him
 - Barbara Jo Yen – stated we are all on the same page to support Lehigh; need to do what is best for Lehigh; need to work as a community

- Nick Ercolino stated he saw too much indecision with the Board; he agreed with Lohlein

(MOTION M46) – motion passed to rescind Referendum from Articles of Incorporation (Jan 05 meeting) (LaRosa against)

11. Discussion on the new criteria for acceptance of the contract with the Board of County Commissioners for the \$25,000 Seed Money Grant.

- Criteria would be as currently written if the \$25,000 Seed Money Grant is accepted
- LaRosa wants to negotiate, questioned contract

(MOTION M47) – motion approved to accept contract as currently written

12. Acceptance or Rejection of the Board of County Commissioners \$25,000 Seed Money Grant.

- Mudd expressed his pleasure that the Board voted to rescind the Referendum
- Stated that proposal would now go out for the Professional Planner
- BOCC realizes it will take more than the \$25,000 Seed Money and they are willing to extend funding

(MOTION M48) – motion approved to accept the \$25,000 Seed Money Grant (Dixon / Miller)

13. Motion by Charlie Difelice for a Moratorium against the City of Ft Myers from Annexing any further lands of Lehigh Acres Territory

- Eugene Borosch stated the fire department borders should define Lehigh Acres boundaries
- Rebecca Martin (works in the City Council's Office) stated there was no need to vote for a moratorium – that the City of Ft Myers did not want Lehigh
 - Gateway was voluntarily annexing into the City of Ft Myers
- Barrett spoke with Rep Kyle who previously offered to take the bill to Tallahassee, Kyle is no longer able to take it
 - The bill would require Ft Myers to annex in a hostile environment
 - Suggested tabling the motion until another discussion with Kyle
- Richter stated if we have no power then why vote on the issue

(MOTION M49) – motion failed for LACPC moratorium against Ft Myers annexing Lehigh Acres (Difelice, Fleming for)

14. Motion by Member Desmond Barrett to support subcommittees' recommendations to create Linear Trails along canal rights-of-way, in cooperation with the East County Water Control District. (Note: Board Members Fleming & Barrett must abstain from voting).
Item withdrawn

15. Motion by Vice Chairman, Frank LaRosa to fund the fee for Board Members to attend the March 11 & 12 training sessions.

(MOTION M50) – motion approved to pay for the \$25/person fees for LACPC Board and Subcommittee members attendance at the training session

16. Motion by Board Member John Miller to adopt Lee Boulevard, participate in The Lehigh Spring Festival, Raise Funds and sponsor a Lehigh Acres Community Clean-up on Earth Day.

- Approval for the \$100 for booth at Spring Festival was approved by Fleming and Feng, even though it had not previously come in front of the Board – issue was time sensitive

(MOTION M51) – motion approved to Adopt-a-Highway on Lee Blvd; Participate in the Spring Festival; would not raise funds but pay-in-kind

17. Discussion of the RFQ and RFP process for the selection of a Professional Planning Consultant – Jim Mudd and the RFQ/RFP task group.

- Would proceed with the Request for Quote and Request for Proposal
- That he would work with the Board and the Planner
- Jim intends to attend more subcommittee meetings

18. Subcommittee Reports

- Planning & Zoning – adding additional meetings this month
- Roads, etc – 4th Thu of each month – Veterans Park
- Beautification – 3rd Thu of each month – Veterans Park
- Parks & Rec – 3rd Thu of each month – Veterans Park

Open Public Comments

- ❖ Robert Anderson – reminded Fleming of the recent news article that Anderson had been appointed ex-officio to the Smart Growth Committee and LACPC as an ex-officio

New Business

- Barrett proposed Quarterly meetings for the Board

Old Business

- PO Box (to be obtained by Willard Baker)

Adjournment @ 9:30 PM

Karen Adams, Recording Secretary