

# Lehigh Acres Community Planning Corporation, Inc.

April 13, 2005 Minutes

Call to Order by President Fleming @ 7:05 PM

Roll Call by Secretary Baker

Present

✓ Jim Fleming, Frank LaRosa, Bo Turbeville, John Dixon Morrow, Azelma Simmons, Liz Eilf, Charlie Difelice, Keith Richter, John Miller, Wayne Elrod, Willard Baker, Colin Feng (late)

Unexcused

✓ Dr Duncan

Invocation

Pledge of Allegiance by Vice President LaRosa

Open Public Comment on the Following Agenda Items

- ❖ Frank Lohlein voiced his concerns re:
  - Referendum being stricken in order to accept the \$25,000 from BOCC
  - Desire for the Referendum be placed in the By-Laws where he feels the item was to have been placed, thereby making it impossible to have been removed
  - Feels the approved Meeting Minutes from January are incorrect and should be modified
  - Feels that minutes are being recorded incorrectly not verbatim, and that meetings are not being recorded by tape as required
  - Karen Adams informed Lohlein that minutes are not a transcript but the overall outline of what was discussed during the meeting which is what is required; and that she had brought it to the Chair's attention several times about no tape recordings being done
- ❖ Linda Carter – had FL Planning Officials handbooks available to pass out, one copy was kept for the records
- ❖ Frank LaRosa – feels his statement was to make the Referendum part of the By-Laws not Articles of Incorporation
  - Karen Adams, recording secretary stated the item was brought up during the discussion of the Articles of Incorporation
  - Keith Richter's previous comment about this being a mute point was reiterated since the Board had already accepted the \$25,000 and entered into a contract with BOCC
  - Jim Fleming deferred the issue until a future date when legal council was available

## **ORGANIZATIONAL AGENDA:**

1. Review and Approval of the Agenda  
**(MOTION M52) Motion Approved – to accept Feb Meeting Agenda as written (LaRosa – against)**
  
2. Review and Approval of the Minutes of the Meetings of March 9, 2005  
**(MOTION M53) Motion Approved – to accept Feb Meeting Minutes as written (LaRosa- against; Baker – abstained due to not being present at the meeting)**
  
3. Motion to accept Desmond Barrett’s Resignation by Keith Richter; seconded by John Miller  
**(MOTION M54) Motion Approved – to accept resignation of Desmond Barrett**
  - Keith Richter made a plea for any additional resignations to happen now to alleviate the constant influx with Board members
  - Advertisement for the vacancy to be publicized
  - Applications to be submitted to Jim Mudd by May 6th
  
4. Discussion concerning Elections & clarification of By-Law’s & Articles of Incorporation, requested by Charlie DiFelice
  - DiFelice stated officers will be in place for 1 year in July, believed in the Board being “fresh”
  
5. Recommendation by County Attny, David Owen and Comm Ray Judah for the Board to begin procedures to hire a Board Attorney
  - Fleming stated he would like to see Attny Hill assist the Board, previously expressed doing some pro-bono until funds were available
  - Motion to hire legal council by Keith Richter / seconded by Charlie DiFelice**(MOTION M55) – approved for Jim Mudd to pursue RFQ / RFP for a Board Attorney; DiFelice to assist**
  
6. Request to sponsor a “Community Vision Contest” to encourage more community involvement, and establish the vision statement and goals of LACPC / by John Miller
  - Winner to be announced July 4<sup>th</sup>
  - Advertise in newspapers, through the Chamber of Commerce, various other groups, boxes in businesses for entry submissions
  - Minimal scope for 2 – 3 paragraphs suggested by Daryl Walters**(MOTION M56) – approved to pay for advertisement for the Community Vision Contest / motion by John Dixon Morrow / seconded by John Miller**

7. Discussion of the RFQ & RFP process for the selection of a Professional Planning Consultant.
  - Bo Turbeville, Keith Richter, Linda Carter, Daryl Walters and Wayne Elrod to assist with process along with Jim Mudd
  
8. Subcommittee Reports
  - John Dixon Morrow gave a brief report
  - Keith Richter stated he was unable to write grants at the present time
  - Liz Eilf Social Services etc met five times and their progress
  - Willard Baker had no report due to his prior illness
  - Frank LaRosa had no report
  - DiFelice stated Bldgs, Rds etc meet the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of every month
    - Green Meadow Rd / SR82 / Sunshine / Alico Rd
    - 80ft easement
    - Discussion of future utility needs
    - County has a basis for your 20/20 needs
    - County is creating zones for impact fees / further out – higher costs
    - Costs for utilities will be 10'x as high in the future
    - Joh Miller would like to see some type of fund in place to assist the e;derly with future utility costs
  - Lohlein stated costs to taxpayers should be part of the equation, part of the reporting
    - He had talked with Ric Diaz, Lee County Utility Director who had stated – Lehigh would be their worst investment
  - Fleming stated we have 26,000 platted lots in Lehigh
    - Utilities only make money with planned developments, feels it will be an economic issue / moratorium
    - ECWCD reports that fecal counts are off the charts in our canals currently, due to high levels – septic tanks and runoff
  - Barbara stated – we need to plan for the future – not today
    - We are the county, so many refer to; we are the ones paying for what we receive
  - Wayne Elrod stated that he was the Chair of the Planning and Zoning Subcommittee and no future meetings would be held without his scheduling
    - Mike Welch requested materials from Wayne Daltry for committee meetings
    - Mike stated that members felt they needed to meet every two weeks

## Open Public Comments

- ❖ Frank Lohlein – stated summarized minutes were not acceptable w/o taped backup
- ❖ Joseph Nolan complimented the Board on the meeting, but questioned the preference of Attny Hill – she is too one-sided, preferred to have selection be a Lehigh resident if possible
- ❖ Question arose to Frank LaRosa’s previous comments he would step down from the Board if the Referendum were voted down, or removed – Frank replied he was not stepping down and felt the Referendum should remain it was illegal to remove it
- ❖ Frank LaRosa stated he would not be held accountable for any missing or unaccounted funds
  - ❖ That he would go to the bank in the morning and remove his name from the account
  - ❖ Requested an accounting of all checks issued for the May meeting
- ❖ Robert Anderson asked why there was no Treasurer’s Report, stated there was \$1,900 missing from the account
  - ❖ Stated he had requested three times for financial records with no response
  - ❖ Feng replied he had 30-days in which to report
- ❖ Colin Feng stated he was responsible for the accounting not Frank LaRosa, and that he had back-up for all spending
  - ❖ 501-C is not required to issue monthly statements, but he could if asked to do so
  - ❖ He had not received the first statement until 01/21/05, the Chair receives the statement and then gives it to the Treasurer

## New Business

- Quarterly meetings – Willard Baker
- Accounting of funds spent – Frank LaRosa
- Workshop meeting prior to regular meeting, felt a lot was accomplished at the first workshop held
- Vacancy from resignation of Desmond Barrett

## Old Business

- PO Box / Willard Baker stated he was urged to get the PO Box three days prior to his scheduled surgery in January and that noone had contacted him for the number or the keys
  - Expressed his dislike that his “buddy” Jim Fleming had not contacted or come to visit him after his surgery; he also stated no one else from the Board came by or called after his surgery
  - PO Box 1408
  - Bill submitted to Treasurer for reimbursement

**(MOTION M57) – to reimburse Willard Baker for the PO Box (approved by all)**

**(MOTION M58) – to approve for reimbursement of the ad w/Newstar re: Earth Day Celebration for \$264.00 (not brought before the Board due to lack of time) (LaRosa, Turbeville – against)**

Adjournment @ 9:02 PM

Karen Adams, Recording Secretary