

**CITY OF
MOUNT DORA, FLORIDA**

**NE CRA ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES**



October 10, 2023

I. Call to Order

Having been duly noticed as required by law, Mrs. Rona Rowe, Chair of the Northeast CRA Advisory Committee called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. Roll Call, Moment of Silence & Pledge of Allegiance

Present: Rona Rowe, Chair; Lillie Taylor, Lynn Tacher, Stevie Harley, Rosalyn Harris, Ozell Ward

Absent: Bryan Belk

City Staff: Adam Sumner, Deputy Planning Director, Catherine Hutcheson, Clerk

Administrative Coordinator; Officer Kenny Lopez; Tannia Jett Code Compliance Officer

III. Public Comment Period

Mr. Steven Anderson explained an issue he is having in regards to the playoff flag football games being played at Frank Brown Park since 2000. Having issues with sharing of the field, the kids have been pushed back and not able to use the field. If the kids are not able to play they have to forfeit the game and disappoint the kids and all of their hard work will have been for nothing.

Mr. Ward asked what days the games are played.

Mr. Anderson gave the dates of Oct, 17, 18, and 21st if they win. They were able to play on Frank brown of the 17th and 21st.

Ms. Taylor asked if kids are practicing at that field.

Mr. Anderson stated no, they practice in Eustis.

Ms. Harris asked how we can change the dates so the kids can play.

Mr. Sumner stated it was up to the City Manager and the Parks and Recreation Dept.

Ms. Tacher asked who told them no, the high school or the city of Mount Dora.

Mr. Anderson said it was the City who denied them access to the high school because the field is being re-sodded.

Mr. Anderson stated that we are a part of this community, the league was started for the Northeast community. He does not know who else to ask for help from that's why he came to the board, for help.

Mr. Harley stated that the league is very important to the community. He exclaimed that he even coached that league at one time. He told Mr. Anderson that Mr. Sumner would be in touch with him to get him assistance. He stated that this league should be allowed to finish out before the new league starts.

Mr. Sumner stated that the Parks and Recreation board doesn't meet until after their season would be completed. The issue is there are 12 teams that all need to share the fields. That is why it cannot be moved to another field. He advised Mr. Anderson to call the City Manager's Office as he does not have the authority to do anything about the issue.

Mr. Sumner also stated that if he wanted to call him directly, he would personally transfer Mr. Anderson over to the City Manager's office to make sure he gets through.

Ms. Harris asked if there was a contact to the people who are currently using that time slot.

Mr. Anderson stated that the City has a flag football team that they started. He explained that since the Northeast league has been in existence they haven't received any funding from the City. That they are just now allowed to play out on that field for free. He further stated that they used to pay to use that field.

Mr. Anderson went on the further state that he feels their kids and community don't get the support that other parts of the city received. He would like to see more support from Mount Dora and their efforts to help their community and the kids of the northeast.

Mr. Ward stated that it might be a good idea for Mr. Anderson to reach out to Mr. Nate Walker, their council representative.

Mr. Tim Honeycutt who coaches Six U and Eight U stated that many of the kids have nothing and no one is teaching them anything. He stated that kids are grateful to him for taking the time

to teach them a sport that they love to play. He is coaching little kids who are so excited at the chance to play in the playoffs this year and he doesn't want to let them down. He asked for more support from the community.

Ms. Taylor called up member of council Nate Walker and asked if he had an opportunity to speak with this group.

Mr. Walker stated that he was made aware of this issue an hour before the meeting started. He is going to be speaking to Mr. Troy Shonk after this meetings completed.

Ms. Zena Coplin asked why the games are being pushed aside. Mr. Sumner stated that he is not sure why. He does not have control of that department, Parks and Recreation. He also stated that the Northeast committee does not have jurisdiction over it.

Ms. Harris asked what can our board to get our young people involved in the community.

Mr. Sumner stated it is outside of what the CRA is chartered to do. He explained that they are designed to keep slum and blight out of communities. They can do job-type training but recreation activities is not something they can really be involved with. Nothing can be done on the CRA side.

Ms. Harris asked how they can approach the city and council to discuss funding to keep kids off the streets and decreasing blights when the board members have no voice.

Mr. Sumner gave an explanation stating that the members should start going to budget meetings to request getting money into the budget for the things they feel they need.

Ms. Harris asked if this program can also be involved in our recreation center.

Mr. Sumner stated he was not sure how they could put park warner in the recreation center.

Ms. Harris and Mr. Sumner had further discussion on this.

Ms. Tacher asked about their football field.

Mr. Sumner stated that he cannot speak to that, that they are their own government within Lake County.

Ms. Tacher asked why the City gets to control their football field.

Mr. Sumner stated that the City does not.

Mr. Anderson clarified that for Ms. Tacher that he went to the school and they told him no because they are re-sodding the field. The then went to the city to request help.

Further discussion on this with Mr. Anderson and the board members.

Ms. Rowe told Mr. Anderson to call the City Manager.

Mr. Ward stated that the board could call the city and council members on their behalf

Mr. Walker stated that if we all take responsibility and use their voices in a timely matter that they can get action. He applauded everyone for being there.

IV. Approval of Minutes of September 12, 2023

Mr. Ward motioned to approve the September 12, 2023 minutes. Ms. Taylor seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously by voice vote.

V. Discussion Items

Mr. Sumner informed the Board the Mr. Chris Carson would not be present to go over the crosswalk art as the art board made a decision to push the project out 30 days to allow for more submissions.

Community Cleanup with Steve Painter-

Mr. Sumner gave an introduction to Steve Painter to discuss community cleanup. Looking for a united approach to the cleanup efforts.

Mr. Sumner stated that he had a discussion with Veronica from Lake County, Keep Lake Beautiful events.

Mr. Painter gave a brief intro to himself and how he got involved with serve days.

Serve Days- host church cleanups; the next serve day is October 28, 2023. Six homes are signed up for the volunteers to do landscaping for those properties. They will also be hosting a senior breakfast and the fire and health departments will be available for flu shots as well. They will be creating 504 thank you cards with a candy bar to let teachers know that their time means a lot to them. Some other things they are doing is Landscaping at Triangle and creating Self Esteem Hopscotch. Continued discussion on other projects, in regards to code enforcement.

Mr. Painter stated that over 400 volunteers have currently signed up for serve days between Mount Dora and Apopka, more to sign up over the next two weeks. They do these serve days two times a year in the Spring and Fall season.

Ms. Harris asked what type of work is involved.

Mr. Painter gave some examples of things they have done. Such as cleaning up an entire home, landscaping, interior remodeling, anything that does not require a permit.

Ms. Rowe asked about the timeline.

Mr. Painter stated October 28, 2023 and possibly April 2024.

Ms. Rowe asked what can be done in between that to fill the voids of other needs that need to be met.

Mr. Painter stated he has been talking with other church groups, habitat for humanity and home builders association, which he is still trying to reach out to. He addressed Mr. Robert Bell's group, Mans Ministry, as well.

Ms. Tacher asked if he had asked people at Lowes for assistance as she knows that that company helps with things like that.

Mr. Painter stated no he did not reach out to them. He stated that Lowes was a good idea but he is looking to involve students for graduation hours.

Ms. Taylor talked about the board members playing a part in the community. That as residents we should volunteer. She discussed another group that she works with that she is speaking with. She stated that we need to be communicating with the Northeast community to get more work done.

Ms. Taylor stated that it starts at home, to close the gap and bring the community together.

Mr. Painter discussed speaking to his lead pastor and bring other churches in.

Mr. Sumner asked how many projects in October.

Mr. Painter stated 10.

Mr. Sumner commended Mr. Painter. That he is sparking some ideas in his head to motivate the civic groups.

Mr. Painter stated that Mr. Sumner had been a great contact as far as code enforcement goes.

Mr. Bobbie Rowe brought up speaking with Ms. Taylor about creating a community town hall.

Further Discussion on the town hall concept.

Ms. Taylor stated that for the October 28th Serve Day that Officer Kenny Lopez will be there.

Officer Lopez stated he will try his best to be there but there is also the Mount Dora Craft Festival that day as well.

Mr. Ward asked what the board can do in terms of being involved Ms. Taylor gave her number and advised everyone to reach out to her. She Thanked Mr. Painter for his involvement.

Ms. Rowe commended Ms. Taylor for doing so much work. She exclaimed that she also thinks the community needs to come together. That she is thankful for these groups but would also like to see community members get more involved.

Ms. Taylor talked about her passion for where she lives and how she wants to bring people together..

Ms. Tacher asked when people leave a house and there is trash on the sidewalk how those items can be cleaned up faster. She stated that she sees the same trash items week after week.

Mr. Sumner stated that he calls Waste Management daily to do bulk pickups in the area but they do not always pick up in a timely manner. The last one he called in took two weeks for pickup. He stated that he cannot make Waste Management move any faster. Further discussion on that.

Ms. Tacher stated that it affects the tree program.

Mr. Sumner stated that the tree program is on the next council meeting agenda.

Mr. Sumner and Ms. Thatcher discussed the next council agenda.

Mr. Ward asked what we do formally if we want this type of work to continue.

Mr. Painter brought up the town hall concept, he felt this was a great idea to get the word out about these cleanup programs.

Mr. Ward asked if a meeting can be facilitated.

Mr. Sumner stated yes and was in support of town hall meeting.

Mr. Rowe discussed how to set up the town hall meetings.

Mr. Ward brought up sunshine law

Mr. Sumner talked about town hall meeting, posting it as a town hall committee. Further discussion on how this would satisfy Sunshine Law.

Further discussions on the Northeast cleanup efforts.

PD Update-

Officer Kenny Lopez gave a brief update on the crime stats in the northeast district. He stated that the Police Department has just opened up 46 new positions for officers.

Mr. Ward asked how many bicycles there are

Officer Lopez stated he was not sure.

Mr. Ward stated that the officers need to have a better relationship with the community.

Further discussion on the relationship with PD and the Northeast community.

Officer Lopez stated that the officers, new and senior officers, will be going through Emotional Intelligence training. He is hopeful that this will help grow the relationship with the Northeast.

Ms. Taylor voiced her concern with the turnover within the department.

Officer. Lopez discussed this further, stating that there needs to be better training efforts and that Chief Gibson is working towards that.

Ms. Rowe asked if there was an opportunity for a meet and greet with officers at a possible future town hall meeting.

Officer Lopez would present the idea to Chief and Council. He feels the response will be a positive one.

Ms. Thatcher talked about some ideas to help bring PD and the community together.

Officer Lopez responded in the positive and stated he would love to hear more ideas.

VI. Other Business

Code Compliance Inspector Intro-

Mr Sumner gave brief introduction on New Code Compliance Inspector, Ms. Tannia Jett.

Mr. Sumner discussed the continuation of acorn lights in budget.

Mr. Sumner stated that was all he had for the board. That he would bring up the Town Hall idea at November's meeting and called for adjournment.

Ms. Taylor asked about the code compliance procedure.

Ms. Jett talked about her approach to code and her experiences thus far.

Ms. Taylor stated her concern that code compliance is not being done within the northeast area.

Mr. Sumner stated they are only complaint driven at this time. He stated that Ms. Jett is his only code inspector so because of this she is unable to see all of the code violations.

Mr. Sumner stated that if they see something then they address it but he cannot have her cover every street, every day, and address every complaint.

Ms. Taylor stated that was not where she was going with her question but she thanked him filling her in on that information.

Ms. Taylor asked about the procedure that Ms. Jett follows.

Ms. Jett stated that she has been doing the job for over 20 years and has an eagle eye for violations.

Ms. Taylor acknowledged this and stated that if a complaint is made about something that she should not have to drive down the street eight months later and see the same issue.

Ms. Jett agreed and explained the procedure and the time it takes to deal with a case that is non-compliant.

Mr. Sumner talked more on Florida Property Ownership Rights and the legalities of this as relates to code compliance.

Ms. Taylor stated that she gets three to four calls a week about code violations. She stated that now that she knows there is a paper trail she will direct the complainants to Ms. Jett and or Mr. Sumner.

Ms. Taylor brought up that she had spoken to a resident who claimed they called Code Enforcement and said to that person "you don't get out here much do you" and the person responded, "No because I can't drive right now". Ms. Taylor explained that she knew they were talking about Mr. Sumner due to his foot injury.

Mr. Sumner stated that he had said that and told that person the truth because Ms. Jett had not started in her position at that time. He further elaborated his issue with having one inspector. He also stated that he will be getting another code inspector in future.

Mr. Sumner stated that until this happens they will never be able to get to all of the code complaints. He also stated that this is no reflection on Ms. Jett.

Mr. Sumner gave direction on how to use the Report of Concern on the City Website to help them get to those complaints.

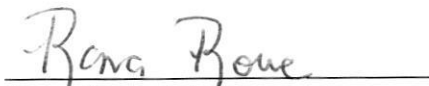
Mr. Sumner went into detail about tenant-landlord code cases. He stated that the sign code takes up a lot of Ms. Jett's time and making sure those prohibited signs are removed from city streets.

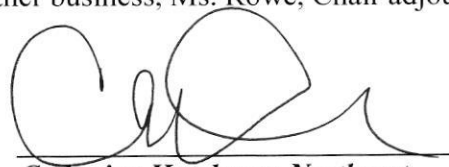
VII. Announcement of next scheduled meeting date: November 14, 2023

Meeting confirmed for November. Town Hall concept to be discussed.

VIII. Adjournment

Mr. Ward moved to adjourn the meeting and Ms. Taylor seconded the motion. All approved unanimously by voice vote. There being no further business, Ms. Rowe, Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:22 PM.


Rona Rowe, Chair,
Redevelopment Board


Catherine Hutcheson Northeast
Coordinator