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Latest News — Updated @ 7:35 P.m.

## CRA director leaving Dec. 21 for Tennessee job

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### 7:35 p.m.

The CRA board has agreed to let CRA Executive Director Suzanne Kuehn out of her contract early.

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She had planned to retire Jan. 16, but she has accepted a position as development director in Johnson City, Tenn. She begins there Feb. 4.

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The board agreed to end her duties as of Friday, paying her for two weeks vacation and two weeks severance.

CRA Project Manager Richard Orth will fill in as acting director until the new executive director takes over.

### 7:20 p.m.

The CRA is hearing a proposal to buy a two-building condo development at the south end of the Rubicon Canal, just north of SE 47th Terrace.

The property owner, Community Bank of Cape Coral, is offering the property for \$850,000 with the idea to demolish the condos and improve boaters' access to downtown Cape Coral.

CRA board member Don Heisler said it's too much money when the board has so many other projects in need of funding.

"I can't get very warm and fuzzy about this property," he said, noting concerns include the lack of boat parking and the lack of enough space for boats to turn around.

CRA board member Rich Greer said they should explore the idea and see what they can come up with.

"This community needs waterfront and the downtown developed," he said. "This could be huge."

CRA Project Manager Richard Orth said it would not be a marina, but with the

removal of condos and dredging, the space would allow for six to eight boat slips.

#### **6:45 p.m.**

The CRA board is hearing an informational presentation from Village Square LLC about the planned Village Square, a mix of two 14-story residential towers and 251,000 square feet of commercial, including retail, office, restaurants and parking garage in a pedestrian-friendly area between SE 47th Terrace and Cape Coral Parkway.

The developer is in the process of submitting a planned development project application with the city of Cape Coral. He is presenting to the CRA board because the project lies within CRA boundaries.

#### **5:55 p.m.**

The CRA board quickly voted to offer the executive director position to Glenn F. Lyons, president of an affordable housing development company in Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

The second choice is Christopher Norton, director of economic and neighborhood development for the city of Palm Bay.

CRA board member Jason Tramonte will participate in the job offer negotiations with Lyons.

#### **3:50 p.m.**

The Downtown Cape Coral Community Redevelopment Agency board will meet tonight to select a replacement for retiring Executive Director Suzanne Kuehn.

Forty-one applicants were narrowed to six finalists, who then came to Cape Coral over the weekend for interviews.

Board Chairman John Jacobsen said a straw poll of board members and city staff was taken at that meeting, unofficially narrowing their top picks to Glenn F. Lyons, Christopher R. Norton and Richard J. Reade.

Lyons is president of an affordable housing development company in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. Norton is director of economic and neighborhood development for the city of Palm Bay. Reade is former city manager of Davenport.

Jacobsen said tonight's meeting, which starts at 5:30 in City Council Chambers, will officially narrow the list from six to two or three. The final vote will be made only by the CRA board, not city staff.

"We'll eliminate the ones we don't need to talk about," he said. "Then we'll make our top choice from that."

Jacobsen said there is a slight chance the board won't be able to choose tonight. If that happens, two finalists would be brought back for more interviews.

"I don't think that's likely. The executive search firm told us any one of the six could do the job," he said, referring to the firm Colin Baenziger and Associates.

The top choice will receive a conditional offer of employment, dependent on successfully passing a police background check.

"We've gone as far as a private company can investigate," Jacobsen said. "But I'd be amazed if anything would show up at this point."

Kuehn's last day is January 16.

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