
Downtown plan approved

City planners and members of the Community Redevelopment Agency have long spoken of the need for change in Cape Coral’s downtown. On Tuesday, the first steps down that road became reality.

Cape Coral City Council unanimously approved changes to the city’s Comprehensive Plan and Future Land Use Map to allow increased densities downtown. Those changes will now be transmitted to the state Department of Community Affairs for a final blessing.

The changes allow the city to increase density from 2,027 residential units to 11,146, Planning Division Manager Annette Barbaccia said. Increasing residential will allow for the nighttime foot-traffic that is necessary to support existing and future businesses within the CRA boundaries, officials said.

Had the changes not been approved, much of that allowable density — 707 units, Planner Rick Sosnoski said — would have been already used up.

Councilmember A.J. Boyd said approving the changes was the only thing the board could do.

“This is the place for this to happen,” he said.

For more on this local story by Kevin Duffy, see the Aug. 24 issue of **The Breeze**.

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