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Cape Redevelopment Agency head quits

Suzanne Kuehn cites her mother's health; will leave in January

By Pete Skiba

pskiba@news-press.com

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Suzanne Kuehn, the Cape Coral Redevelopment Agency's executive director, handed in her resignation Tuesday.

The resignation came just before the agency's board began a 5:30 p.m. workshop discussion of a downtown traffic study.

Citing concerns about her mother's health, Kuehn resigned with six months notice as her contract required.

"The people have been wonderful and the support of the board and my staff has been great," said Kuehn, 62. "I really want to retire and spend time with my mother."

The resignation came as no surprise to John Jacobsen, the redevelopment board's chairman.

"I've known about her mother's condition for a while and I knew she wanted to retire," he said. "We are lucky to have had her for this long and we have her until January. She is probably the smartest person about redevelopment in Florida."

Kuehn came to Cape Coral in 2004 from a job as economic development administrator in Daytona Beach.

She plans eventually to retire to a small town in Tennessee.

"It just might be time for me to downsize," Kuehn said.

Trying to plan for growth in the city's downtown, the redevelopment agency during its workshop considered changes to the roads at the east end of the 432-acre redevelopment area.

The area extends from Tudor Drive at the west along both sides of Cape Coral Parkway to the Cape Coral Bridge. Another part extends north along Del Prado Boulevard to Southeast 46th Street.

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It could take a year but the board wants to bring relief to the 48,000 drivers who use Cape Coral Parkway daily. Board members talked about six-laning the parkway by eliminating parking on its north and south sides.

“The sooner we six-lane it the better,” said Rich Greer, board member.

There is a possibility that leased parking lots could be ready to take up the parking slack in six to nine months, Kuehn said.

The workshop discussion also covered road signs and possibly moving the Veterans Memorial on Cape Coral Parkway at the east of Del Prado Boulevard.

There might be a suitable place for it near the Cape Coral Chamber of Commerce offices at the base of the bridge, board member Don Heisler said. the area would allow people to walk to the memorial among trees.

More discussion about the traffic study could be scheduled, possibly at the next agency meeting July 24.

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