

ST JOHNS COUNTY CIVIC ROUNDTABLE

MINUTES OF MEETING

June 12th, 2017

The meeting was called to order by President Lofgren at 9:00 am. The minutes of the May 8, 2017 meeting were approved as read. The treasurer reported a balance of \$787.93 with 8 paid members.

President Lofgren introduced Dr. Mark Gendzier and Dr. Virginia Squelch with The Citizens for a New Tree Ordinance in St Johns County.

The Citizens for a New Tree Ordinance is a grass roots effort to amend or rewrite the existing tree ordinance to better protect our native trees. The current ordinance has virtually no protection for trees inasmuch as any tree can be cut down as long as there is going to be a minimum of six inches of fill on the property and a replant of (10) 4 inch trees per acre of land. The St Johns County Tree Ordinance is one of the weakest in the state.

Slides were shown of the result of clear cutting of trees in St Johns County as a result of development. A previous vote taken by the County Commission was to reopen the land use ordinances for possible rewrite, however, nothing has been done in this area.

The Civic Roundtable Members were encouraged to join the Citizens for a New Tree Ordinance group.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. Robert Olson wanted to know if there was any initiative process in the county whereby citizens could put an issue on the ballot. The answer is “no”.
2. President Lofgren announced that the speaker for next month would be Bill Lazar from the St Johns Housing Partnership.

3. Mary Konke announced that there is a new initiative to get the County Commissioners to put a one cent sales tax increase on the ballot for the citizens to decide. She encouraged interested persons to e-mail their Commissioners and their friends on this issue.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 am.

Submitted

Ed Olsen
for Secretary Dennis Froio