

St. Johns County Civic Roundtable

MINUTES OF MEETING

April 14, 2014

The meeting was called to order by President Rick Lofgren at 9:00 am.

The minutes of the March 10, 2014 meeting were accepted as read.

The treasurer reported a balance of \$2063.69 with 8 paid members.

President Lofgren introduced Ms. Bonnie Barnes, Executive Director, North Florida Land Trust who was the guest speaker. Ms. Barnes outlined the functions and responsibilities of the land trust. The trust has preserved over 3500 acres in the 7 counties it covers. It owns 40 acres at the corner of Mickler Road and A1A. It is working on acquiring land on Big Talbot Island and Little Talbot Island.

She spoke of the difficulty in finding funds for land preservation and said that Amendment 1 to the Constitution, if passed in November, will provide some badly needed funds for preservation. The Trust is trying to be more strategic in its land acquisition by obtaining conservation easements on strategically important properties.

President Lofgren then introduced Vivian Bowning who spoke on behalf of the Friends of A1A. Vivian stated there is a need for more representation in The Friends by people from St. Johns County. She urged the membership to spread the word about joining The Friends of A1A. The next meeting of the Friends will be on April 30, 2014 at 2:00 pm in the City Hall of St. Augustine Beach.

Other business

1. Jerry Cameron, Assistant County Administrator, discussed the following:
2. -The county administrative budget hearings for year 2015 will be held on May 14-15th.
3. - The county is numbering county- owned retention ponds.
4. -Construction of the new H.H.R. building is underway. Completion is scheduled for April 2015.
5. Denver Cook – candidate for County Commissioner District 4 introduced himself.
6. County Commissioner Jay Morris stated that the county's bond rating was raised two steps from AA- to AA+ by Standard and Poors. This will reduce the cost of borrowing for the county.
7. Handley Caraway suggested that the Roundtable send out letters to the various member groups to inform them of the dues.
8. Ellen Whitmer announced that the Bartram Bash will be held on April 19.
9. Mary Konke announced that The Ponte Vedra Coalition will be having a candidate debate for the upcoming election.
10. Sarah Bailey discussed the traffic problems on Race Track Rd.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Ed Olsen – Secretary