

ST JOHNS COUNTY CIVIC ROUNDTABLE MINUTES

February 12, 2018

President Lofgren opened the meeting at 9:00am.

Secretary's Report: The Roundtable Minutes of January 8, 2018 were accepted as read.

Treasurer's Report: The balance in our account is \$595.83

President Lofgren introduced Diane Vaughn, adoption coordinator, grant writer and teacher at St Gerard Campus. St Gerard Campus located at 1405 US Hwy 1 South (Across from Target) is a High School and Dormitory for pregnant teenagers and unwed mothers.

Ms. Vaughn informed us that the St Gerard High School serves approximately 30 young women who can keep their babies under 2 months of age with them in class. A dormitory is also available for the protection of these young women who often do not come from nuclear families. Currently, due to fire code restrictions, the dormitory residents must be at least 18 years of age.

The Campus also provides free pregnancy tests and sonograms along with counseling. Adoption services

are also provided allowing the birth mother a voice in selecting the adopting individuals.

The St Gerard Campus does not receive government funding relying entirely on grants, private donations and United Way support. Donations of disposable diapers and wipes are always appreciated. Publix supermarkets has an ongoing donation of baked goods.

Students can stay until they graduate from the High School and receive placement help to assist in the transition to community living. They also get guidance in developing parenting skills.

About 60 volunteers help provide around the clock supervision. That volunteer help allows the campus to operate on a budget of about \$800,00 per year. The purchase of "Choose Life" license plates contributes \$12,000 per year to St Gerards.

The Campus also has a store that sells donated goods bringing in an additional \$40,000 per year.

Roundtable discussion:

Doug Worth – Noted progress with the Traffic Task Force citizen survey of the proposed North Florida TPO project to provide turn and lane improvements to A1A and east-side entry lanes for the Intercoastal Bridge, widen A1A to four lanes south to Mickler, widen the

Mickler/210 route to the Intercoastal Bridge to four lanes and widen A1A north to six lanes from Sawgrass CC to Butler Blvd. Also, there was mentioned a new proposed Panera Bread near The Bogey Grill.

Bob Olson discussed the possible use of the “Bed Tax” to cover some of the costs of sand renourishment of the beaches in the South Ponte Vedra/ Vilano area. Hydraulic equipment could be used to deposit large amounts of sand on the beach.

Make every effort to bring guests for the next meeting. Tim Forson, St Johns County Superintendent of Schools will be our guest speaker at our March 10th meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30am

Respectfully Submitted:

Dennis Froio, Secretary