

## Saint Johns County Civic Roundtable

### Minutes of Meeting

May 14, 2018

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

The minutes of the April 9, 2018 meeting were accepted with one correction.

The treasurer reported a balance of \$759.43. She indicated that she had application forms for those who needed them.

President Lofgren introduced the guest speaker, Mr. Jim McCarthy, President of the North Florida Land Trust.

Jim said the North Florida Land Trust was founded in 1999 and he became President in 2014. The trust is in the real estate business of purchasing conservation easements on land in 13 counties in the North Florida area. It currently protects over 18,000 acres of land. Most of the land was acquired through conservation easements. It is a 501/C3 organization with 12 directors. Current projects include a conservation easement of 892 acres in Nassau County on the St Mary's River, an easement in Putnam County adjacent to the Rice Creek Plantation which is owned by the St Johns River Water Authority, and the Spanish American War Fort in Duval County. They are also involved in acquiring land adjacent to Camp Blanding in connection with the Department of the Army.

Their office will soon be moved to a building that used to house the Brewster Hospital in Jacksonville. He discussed the sources of their funds one of which was as a result of Amendment 1 passed several years ago which was supposed to provide money for conservation land from a portion of the document stamp money. Unfortunately, until 2001 the Legislature had spent none of the Amendment 1 money on conservation. In 2017 one hundred million was spent, however zero was spent this year. John said he feels that

water quality will become an important issue in Florida in the next 5-10 years. Furthermore, he told us that they successfully use hunters in their land management plan as stewards of the lands. Hunters have a very strong interest in seeing that the lands remain wild.

Other Items:

1. Ms. Rachel Bennett asked everyone to have their homeowner association members take the important survey offered now by the St Johns County Public Library.
2. A request was made for information on a security system that photographs license plates as they enter subdivisions. President Lofgren and Linda Oakley spoke of the systems currently used in their subdivisions.
3. President Lofgren announced that the June 11 meeting will be held at the St Johns County Emergency Operations Center, 100 EOC Drive off of S.R. 16 by I-95. That meeting will start at 9:00 am.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 am

Respectfully Submitted,

Ed Olsen for

Dennis Froio, Secretary.