

ST. JOHNS COUNTY CIVIC ROUNDTABLE

MINUTES OF MEETING

April 14, 2015

The meeting was called to order by President Rick Lofgren at 9:00 am. The minutes of the March 9, 2015 meeting were approved as read.

The treasurer reported a balance of \$1688.44 with 8 paid memberships.

President Lofgren introduced the guest speaker, Mr. Rick Ducharme, Founder and Executive Director of First Coast No More Homeless Pets who was accompanied by Ms. Diane Wilks from the Jacksonville Humane Society.

First Coast No More Homeless Pets was founded in 2002 with the object of reducing the killing of pets in animal shelters. They are located in Jacksonville. Their goal is to save 90% of all pets entering the shelters. Their focus is the 12 counties in Northeast Florida which includes St. Johns County.

In 2008 they started the Feral Freedom Program which focuses on neutering/spaying and releasing feral cats. This program has significantly reduced the number of feral cats coming in to shelters. Their shelter is located on Norwood Av. off of I-95 in Jacksonville. Their other goal is to eliminate the no adoption rule for breeds deemed dangerous such as Pit Bulls. The goal is to have each dog evaluated as an individual when deciding to allow adoption.

Jerry Cameron, Assistant County Administrator, informed the Roundtable that the county may be changing it's guidelines for no adoption of specific breeds in the future.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. Doug Worth reported that another of the articles he and Bill McCormick are preparing on the county fiscal situation has appeared in the Ponte Vedra Recorder and The Beaches Leader.
- 2.
3. Jerry Cameron commented on the new County Commissioner, Jimmy Johns.
- 4.
5. Jim Walter said that he feels the Civic Roundtable should back the 1% sales tax increase.
- 6.
7. Jim McLane reported that there were several burglaries in his neighborhood, Willow Walk, mainly in unlocked cars.
- 8.
9. Sarah Bailey commented on the greatly increase number of homes under construction in the Northwest area.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50.

Respectfully submitted

Ed Olsen

Secretary