

St Johns County Civic Roundtable

MINUTES OF MEETING

January 13, 2104

Meeting called to Order by President Rick Lofgren at 9:00 am.

Minutes of December meeting were read. Motion to approve, Doug Worth, second Mary Saunders

Financial report; Mary Saunders reported current balance was \$1,829.61. Current year invoices were passed out to those present. Handley Caraway suggested either e-mailing or mailing invoice to all other associations.

The following minutes courtesy of Handley Caraway;

Cheryl Freeman, Director of The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program of St. Johns County (RSVP), assisted by Donna Guzzo, was the featured speaker at the monthly meeting of The St. Johns County Civic Association Roundtable. Open to volunteers 55 or older, the RSVP is hosted by the St. Johns County School District, and funded by grants, corporate sponsorships, and local fundraising activities.

The primary focus of RSVP, Freeman said, is to provide educational volunteers who assist district students through tutoring, mentoring, and school readiness activities. Volunteer tutors help with math, reading, science, English for Speakers of Other Languages, GED completion, and other areas. In doing this, they work closely with teachers and administrators in district schools. In 2011, RSVP lost twenty percent of their funding, resulting in a decrease in the types of volunteer placements and a reduction in the enrolled volunteers from 600 to today's 100 or so, she said.

A typical volunteer assignment may require as little as an hour a week, reading to small groups. There is a current need for volunteers to read to children in Hastings and several other schools, where many students are below norms in reading. Freeman said volunteers with RSVP have found their involvement to be deeply rewarding, as they see the student's achieve.

RSVP will hold a drop-in open house for those interested in volunteering at the Fullerwood Auditorium, 10 Hildreth Drive, on Wednesday, January 29, from 8 A.M. until Noon. On February 22, the annual Chocolate Gala fund raiser is scheduled at the First Coast Technical College from 2 to 4 P.M. For information about RSVP call (904) 547-3945.

See attached information regarding RSVP.

In other business;

1. Mary Kohnke- Raised concerns over the effort of Mr Metcalf to continue to pressure the County pay for Concurrency thru taxes rather than have individual developers pay concurrency.
2. Mary Kohnke expressed concern over the development of a large vacant land site which was once used as a landfill along Palm Valley Rd.. She said she informed the County and subsequently received a call from the Developer , indicating that shallow borings were done and there was no problem.
3. Mary Kohnke expressed a concern where someone has clear cut many acres on Palm Valley Rd and put an entrance to a new development at a point where the road has an approximate 70

degree curve, has created a traffic problem. Mary indicated the County sent someone from the Traffic dept but there is no resolution as yet.

4. Other traffic problem issues were raised, specifically in the Shores area,. Commissioner McClure indicated that a study was being conducted of the intersection of Wildwood rd and US1, which is considered to be one of the worst intersections in the county.
5. Bill McCormick raised the issue of Niagra Bottling, of Lake County, requesting SJWMD approval to increase pumping from an estimated 484,000 gals per day to 910,000 gals per day. The Roundtable will attempt to have a speaker from the St Johns River Water Management District address the Roundtable regarding this issue at the next meeting. This would be in advance of the next SJRWMD meeting in February, thus allowing the Roundtable to take a position if necessary.
6. Commissioner Jay Morris informed the group the unemployment rate in St Johns County in 2013 reduced to 4.9%, the 4th lowest in the state.

Respectfully submitted Tony Bosco

3 pages attached