

ST. JOHNS COUNTY CIVIC ROUNDTABLE

MINUTES OF MEETING

May 11, 2015

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

The minutes of the April 14, 2015 meeting were approved as read.

The Treasurer reported a balance of \$1637.19 with eight paid members.

President Lofgren introduced the guest speaker, Mr. Dana St.Clair, Director of the Saint Augustine 450th Celebration.

Dana reviewed the history of the 450th celebration. The celebration commission was created in 2009 by Federal proclamation. Its objective was to group significant events around the 450th anniversary of the founding of St. Augustine. The goal is to message the role St. Augustine played in the colonization of America.

Dana emphasized the inclusiveness of the founding stating that Africans were in the initial group and the colony relied heavily on the Native Americans they encountered.

He said that there has been a large emphasis on the Spanish heritage of St. Augustine in the planning. Things such as the Spanish Galleon in the harbor, Spanish wine festivals and Spanish food have emphasized the Spanish heritage of the city.

He said that one of the issues currently being faced is how to manage our success. Lack of parking and small narrow streets are some of the concerns.

OTHER BUSINESS

Bill McCormick announced that another of the articles he and Doug Worth are writing in their series of the quality of life in St. Johns County and

sources of revenue to sustain it has been published in The Record. He said that the study on the feasibility of a sales tax increase has been completed but the results are not yet available.

Jerry Cameron discussed the essential versus non-essential aspects of the county budget. He stated that budget hearings are currently being conducted by the County.

Linda Oakley questioned if there could be some budget reductions in essential services such as fire and rescue.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Ed Olsen

Secretary