

St. Johns County Civic Roundtable meeting October 10, 2011

Called to order by Chairman Tony Bosco.

Minutes from September 2011 meeting approved.

Bank Balance is \$3,796.57. Check to Old City Web Service for \$51.25. Motion to approve.

Attendance 16.

Guest speaker is Sheriff David Shoar. Sheriff Shoar's presentation today was focused on Department of Corrections jail capacity. With St. Johns County population increasing faster than most other Florida counties we need to look for additional facilities and programs to deter crime.

Capacity for current jail facilities is 740 with 600 plus and growing now. There is an opportunity to get back property from the Juvenile Assessment. It is a sparse building that can house 100 inmates. Judges say County is overcrowding and have no leeway. That is why they shorten inmate time and let them out early. This is a concern. For our safety.

Sheriff Shoar estimates that 20% of inmates should not be there. Most are drug related minor offenses. These inmates should be in a drug facility or halfway house. Most inmates released are back in jail from 1-3 months. Intervention and Job skills are needed.

Sheriff Shoar introduced Robert Henry who got into trouble and has turned his life around and is currently the Re-entry Director of the Gateway Community Services, a 60 bed facility. He set up 3 programs, Relapse Prevention, Morale Recognitive Thinking and Bible Study. Robert is a Licensed Pastor in Texas. Robert reviewed his problems and why he turned his life around and is now helping people. He offered his phone number which is 904-209-1481 and offered to speak to any groups or give advice to any troubled folks we know. The Prison Farm idea is still something that Shoar would like to see in the County and is not giving up.

Violent crime is down. More cops are being killed today. Shoar believes that parenting is the reason for most of the crime in young folks today. Many do not have father figures or come from dysfunctional families.

New business. Web site update. Tony and Rick met with Old City Web and have cleaned up the web site.

Tony asked for volunteers to serve on several committees: Finance, Growth Management, Fire and Police, Education, and Medical. Please call or email Tony to volunteer.

We also discussed changing our meetings to evenings to increase attendance. The feedback was to keep the meetings as scheduled.

We also discussed going out to meet with HOA and condo Associations to increase attendance.

Meeting adjourned. Next meeting is at 9 am on November 14, 2011