



St. Johns
County
Civic
Roundtable

Survey

December 2019 to
February 2020



Do you find
Value in the
Roundtable?

Yes

90.9

No

9.0

33 Respondents

Comments

it is important to have extra eyes and ears willing to make sure our county is not being abuse with developers and schemers looking to take advantage.

Informative presentations and discussion, useful to keep our HOA up to speed on local matters, some practical and others more generally connected to the livability of our county.

The Roundtable sees itself as a forum for informed discussion on County issues. It does not choose sides, but is based on fair hearing of facts and opinions. I

THE ROUNDTABLE'S HISTORY IS RESPECTED IN TE COMM UNITY. IT NEEDS RE-LIFING AND INCREASED MEMBERSHIP TO WORK TO ITS FULLEST CAPABILITIES.

THIS SURVEY IS A VERY GOOD START. I HOPE YOU GET A LOT OF POSITIVE FEEDBACK.

It keeps my HOA in touch with the rest of the communities in St. Johns County. Also it keeps us updated on activities of the County Administration, etc.

subjects discussed are always of value.

I represent a small 20 home HOA . Participation in SJCCAR allows our Association to be more broadly informed regarding

.Not Certain

Members actively monitor many county activities and provide feedback to our elected officials on issues affecting the quality of life in the county.

Always has been .Then it got lost I am delighted that it is under new leadership and you will bring it back

sometimes we have similar problems and concerns as other communities - groups. This gives us a chance to share, learn and help each other

What suggestions do you have as we plan for 2020 and the future of the Roundtable?

- Keep getting good speakers.
- Become more active in the community. Get The Record involved and supporting and publicizing Roundtable positions.
- Increase the county gas tax to (1) encourage conservation of fuel, thus reducing carbon emissions and (2) use the money raised to make the county more bicycle friendly by building more multi-purpose recreational paths separate from the roads. This would also reduce automotive traffic congestion and thus carbon emissions!
- Continue to monitor the County - the County Commissioners cut lots of services because we were "broke". They mysteriously 15 million dollars appeared. We must keep a watchful eye on them
- More emphasis on environmental conservation

What suggestions do you have as we plan for 2020 and the future of the Roundtable?

- Rotate the location and time of the roundtables. Having a meeting during non-business hours will help.
- I think we need an honest conversation about where St John's is going.
- Continue the Roundtable's activities to keep the county a great place to live.
- Concerned about apathy. Who is coming in behind some of us to serve the community?
- How to find a new Assoc. Management Co.
- Updates As Florida State Laws make changes relating to HOA's, condo's, etc.
- Explanation of Florida Sunshine Laws and what entity has to abide by them, Condos and or Private Homes.
- Role of Association Attorneys

On a scale of 1-10, rank the issues that the Roundtable should champion

Future Vision of St. Johns County	1.8
Smart Growth	1.8
Traffic	2.2
Water Conservation	2.9
Public Safety	3.1
Preservation of Ag Land	3.3
Education	3.5
Bringing Business to St. Johns County	4.2
Tourism Bed Tax	4.8

Better Time/ Place for Meetings?

I think the present time and place ideal

It would probably help most if the meetings were in the evening. I am an HOA president and I have a job. I cannot take time off work for these meetings

this works - as about a central location as you can find - evening meetings are no easier to get people to than a morning meeting

TRY EVENINGS WHEN THE POOL OF PEOPLE AVAILABLE IS GREATER, NOT ONLY RETIREES. THERE HAVE TO BE PEOPLE INTERESTED IN EDUCATION, THE ENVIRONMENT, DEVELOPMENT, PUBLIC SAFETY WHO CAN'T COME TO A MONDAY MORNING MEETING. IF THE AIRPORT CONFERENCE VENUE IS TOO SMALL SEE IF THE COUNTY AUDITORIUM IS AVAILABLE. IT DOES BELONG TO THE TAXPAYERS

Speakers?/ Topics?

- County growth management policies - population increases, traffic and how this is being managed to be in pace with infrastructure to accommodate it.
- HOA best practices
Legislation affecting neighborhoods,
state preemption of local control, removing ability of neighborhood organizations to effectively challenge development approval requests,
- vacation rentals,
- county budget priorities,
- leaders from other Florida communities where visioning and smart growth policies are being successfully implemented.
- 2020 Census results - what is shown as to demographic trends and issues for county.
- Economic development strategies appropriate for Florida's wealthiest, most fully employed county. (Hint: Are we still too invested in promoting low-wage, service employment industries instead of high-skilled, knowledge-driven industries? Is there a need to subsidize the development of new retail centers with the waiving of transportation concurrency payments?)

Speakers/ Topics

- 1. COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
- 2. ASK FOR A REPORT MONTHLY FROM THE COUNTY MANAGER'S REP.
- 2. THE SHERIFF, NOT HIS DEPUTY.
- 3. THE HEAD OF THE PLANNING DEPT.
- 4. Melissa S. Glasgow, Director of Economic Development
- 5. THE PROPERTY APPRAISER, ASK HIM TO TALK ABOUT HIS DEPT, PORTABILITY, HOW APPRAISALS ARE DONE.
- 6. THE TAX COLLECTOR
- 7. THE HEAD OF THE HIGHWAY DEPT.
- 8. SOMEONE FROM FLDOT.
- 9. CORP OF ENGINEERS REGARDING NORTH BEACH REPLENISHMENT
- 10. ISLAND IS SAVED, WHAT'S THE PLAN MOVING FORWARD AND WHO IS WATCHING OVER IT?
- 11. THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS, THE NEW SUPER HAS BEEN IN PLACE FOR 3 YEARS? THE ROUNDTABLE HAS YET TO INVITE HIM TO SPEAK. SCHOOLS REPRESENT THE BIGGEST PART OF TAXES, HIRE THE MOST PEOPLE IN THE COUNTY, BRING THE MOST NEW RESIDENTS INTO THE COMMUNITY.

Speakers/ Topics

- Smart growth advocates and regional planning groups.
- Focus on Vision/Comp Plan/Conservation
- Water/Resiliency
- Multi-Use Trail Presentation
- Clear cutting for commercial/residential development.
- Tourist/bed tax utilization for county projects.
- Crime/Law Enforcement/Public Safety

Other Ideas Suggestions?

- Keep doing what you are doing
- Find ways to engage in Social Media
- Keep Website up to date and energetic
- Continue to operate as a forum and collective voice for neighborhood and civic organizations seeking to maintain and enhance the livability/quality of life for residents of St. Johns County.
- Have representatives from the Roundtable speak at monthly meetings of the various associations explaining what the roundtable does and how important it is.
- Need to develop ways of getting actual citizen involvement. Provide a way to force change on HOA rules/covenants etc.
- Continue on the path currently being followed

Other Ideas/ Suggestions

- HALF THE MEETING SHOULD BE SPEAKERS, THE REST SHOULD BE COMMITTEE REPORTS, ACTIONS TAKEN, ADDRESSING NEW ISSUES AND APPOINTING RESPONSIBILITIES TO COMMITTEES TO FOLLOW UP.
- COMMITTEES SHOULD BE EXPECTED TO MEET ON REGULAR SCHEDULE, NOT JUST AT THE MONTHLY MEETING, ATTEND PUBLIC MEETINGS AND REPORT PROGRESS AT EVERY MONTHLY MEETING.
- INCREASE THE REPORTING TO THE NEWSPAPERS.
- TRY TO GET OTHER MEDIA NEWS COVERAGE. THERE ARE MEMBERS OF THE TV MEDIA WHO LIVE IN ST AUGUSTINE WHO MAY BE INTERESTED IN GETTING INVOLVED WITH STORIES ABOUT THE ROUNDTABLE. JESSICA CLARK AND KENT JUSTICE ARE JUST TWO OF THEM. SOME TV COVERAGE WOULD CERTAINLY BRING ATTENTION.
- OUR LOCAL RADIO STATION WOULD ALSO BE A GOOD VEHICLE FOR THE NEWS. THEY MAY EVEN COVER MEETINGS.

Conclusion

- Roundtable is Valuable
- Generally keep the same time and place/but vary with a few night meetings and other locations
- Focus on the future of our county
 - Vision
 - Development
 - Traffic
 - Conservation
 - Water
 - Public Safety
- Increase visibility of Roundtable
 - Update Website
 - Proactive with Media
 - Speak to Association Meetings



Questions?



Thoughts?



Comments?

Going Forward