

St. Johns County Roundtable Minutes 5-12-08

Attendance: 24

Press: John Woodward, SJC/PV Recorder

Guests: Commissioner Ben Rich
Commissioner Cyndi Stevenson
Representative Bill Proctor
Assistant administrator Jerry Cameron
Commission candidate Ken Bryan
Commission candidate Randy Brunson

April minutes: approved with addendum of Jim McLane's 4-14-08 education report.

Treasurer's report: \$2,477.82 balance.

Committee Reports: Government and budget - Administrator's Budget Review attached.

Growth - no report.

Education - Henry Warner told of Doctor Joyner's communication meeting wherein the Academy Programs were discussed in glowing terms. With local partners such as VyStar and Grumman, enrollees are treated to small learning communities with college-preparatory curricula and career themes. An industry specific math program with Grumman and practical finance with various embedded VyStar units within the schools would be successful current applications. Another would be a computer science and engineering program sponsored by the Stellar group.

Dr. Joyner is aggressively pursuing any and all cost savings solutions to his budget constraints lamenting the fact that the Florida now ranks 50th in student expenditures. 85% of his budget is salary and related expense with only 15% capital expenditures leaving quite a challenge in delivering the desired educational quality with even less money. His sources of funds are 62% local, 34% state and 4% federal. His mileage rate is the highest rate allowed by law. They are in the top 17% of total school expenditures at \$7,100 per student and in the bottom 18% of district level overhead expenditures.

Web-site maintenance - In lieu of a member volunteer, the web-site will be maintained by the existing service at \$80/hr. Submissions should be sent to Peggy @oldcity.com.

Zeroscaping - Lin Oakley reported that with the help of a very cooperative Ag Center, a power point presentation has been put together demonstrating how to use water effectively with Florida friendly landscaping that "doesn't have to look like Arizona". There are many very attractive blooming plants from which to choose. The power point presentation can be used to bring religion to our homeowner associations.

Jim Walter mentioned that his Commodore Club Association is considering pavers in place of grass and low impact sprinkler heads to limit water usage. The recent budget review revealed that the county golf course was also cutting down on grass areas to restrict maintenance and irrigation.

The SJRWMD (water district) was taken to task by their utter lack of management creating a condition that would seem to say "save it here so we can send it there", referring to the St. Johns River heist.

FEATURED SPEAKER; Cheryl Klug, Minute Clinic/CVS Pharmacy

Cheryl manages 9 Minute Clinics all embedded in CVS pharmacies in the Jacksonville area. CVS bought Minute Clinics in 2006, the origin some years before in the twin cities areas of Minnesota was as Quick Medics. It was to supply contract primary care to companies and to individuals who desired a no appointment, cash basis, primary care facility within comfortable reach eliminating the delays in service of so many private practices.

Using nurse practitioners with physician presence on an advisory basis, the operation grew to the point now of 500 units in 25 states that have received 2,000,000 patient visits.

These Clinic take three forms: kiosk, a free-standing unit within other operations, CVS embedded units, and corporate embedded services. The CVS units operate 7 days a week, 8am to 8pm weekdays and 10am to 4pm on weekends. The advising physicians each cover 4 units on a stand-by basis.

Minute Clinics now accept all major health insurance and Medicare. The standard charge is \$59 per visit but with insurance, they collect whatever co-pays are stipulated.

They write prescriptions and only do limited testing on site acting as a referral service for more elaborate procedure. They do not do X-rays.

Nurse practitioners were described as registered nurses who have also completed a Master of Science in nursing. They then must pass a National Certification Exam.

Minute Clinics is the first and only retail health care provider to receive accreditation from the Joint Commission, the National Evaluation and Certifying Agency for nearly 15,000 health care organizations and programs in the US.

In the Jacksonville area, minute/CVS units in St. Johns at 16 and Hwy 1 and on 210 are among their fastest growing.

OTHER

Jill Ziebell, chapter president, Sea Oats Chapter (St. Johns) of the Florida Native Plant Society, mentioned that her organization has taken a position against the intended SJRWMD water withdrawal from the St. Johns River to benefit Central Florida. She echoed much of what Lin Oakley has been pursuing in her zeroscaping effort, but also took to task St. Johns County for its very poor landscaping effort at a new school here that provided no shade trees and was using red cypress mulch. Apparently this red mulch is not a sustainable source (cypress) and it is artificially colored red as the color is thought to be pleasing. Apparently the dye used is counter productive. Conversely the Ag Center recommends natural mulch such as grass, leaves, and pine straw.

HOMEOWNER EXPERIENCE SHARING

Henry Warner called for sharing homeowner associations' experience that could have common ground with others. Examples cited were the ongoing Veranda signage/Ponte Vedra overlay discussions and last month's presentation on the impacts of foreclosures and their causes on homeowner affairs and collections.

Ben Rich made an appeal to the Roundtable to help him with the macro changes that appear necessary in the area of land use and variances. The Comp Plan and Development Code were examples where we are falling short with significant repercussions.

Sarah Bailey argued again for the establishment of an environmental department within the county. This might be aided by the new county administrator's green attitudes.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.