

St. Johns County Roundtable Minutes 2/9/09 Revised 2/15/09

ATTENDANCE: 28

GUEST: Paula Chaon, St. Johns County School District

JANUARY MINUTES: Approved as presented

TREASURER'S REPORT: \$2,196.34 44 Members
New Membership Forms available

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None

SPEAKER: Paula Chaon, St. Johns County School District

Chairman Jim McLane called meeting to order at 9:00 am

Updates:

There is still a vacancy for the Growth Management Committee.

Government Budget time is 4/28/2009-5/1/2009

Old Business: Tony Bosco will attend a Homeowner's Association Seminar 2/21/09 and will report back to the group on changes that may have an affect on Homeowner's Associations.

Jim McLane and Clare Cowan sent a letter to the County Commissioners regarding the Winn Dixie sign issue.

New Business: Jim McLane made a motion to participate in Constant Contact with a one time charge of \$80 and \$10 per month (\$120 annually) in order to better our communication with the different organizations. Motion carried and approved.

Mary Kohnke advised about a PZA Board Meeting on 2/12 for discussion on noise variance. Please attend for support.

Ellen Whitner discussed her concern regarding the Cell Tower by the Bartram Scenic Highway, which will be on church property. Vote was 4-3 in favor of the Cell Tower. Motion to write a letter from the Roundtable regarding the decision was tabled until we had more information on this issue.

Jerry Cameron asked that we get him all the details and he will go to the County Legal department and report back to the Roundtable.

Concern over the proposed State Road 206/Interstate 95 development that no infrastructure is done and that it will cost the taxpayers money.

Illegal spill from St. Johns River to the Wetlands by Davis Park. The State of Florida is suing the Dredge Company. The concern is that the company has only \$5,000,000 in Insurance.

Article in the Record on 2/4 reported that the County Fire Department is looking for a \$23,000,000 loan. Jerry Cameron said that since the LIBOR rates have come down the County is trying to refinance. Also, the County is installing new software that will help get better cost analysis of County Fire Department expenses.

Paula Chaon is a Program Specialist with St. Johns County School District and presented an overview of the Career Academies. There are currently 15 in St. Johns County. The goal was to have one by 2008. We have 15 thanks to the vision of Dr. Joyner.

Students can earn up to 12 college level credits at no charge and students to date have earned \$700,000 in tuition by participating in this program. Sascha Martin and Jim McLane visited the St. Augustine High School Academy and were very impressed with the programs and the instructors.

Business Partners are essential for the success of these programs. The 5-year growth goal is for 40% of High School students to participate in an Academy program. Sponsors are asked to come up with \$50,000 of In- Kind Services to participate. Students can apply to go to an Academy but must supply their own transportation. Other programs like this have shown a great percentage of students going on to College, Post Graduate and generally better human beings and able to fit in well after their school years. St. Johns is monitoring this since the County is in the fourth year of the program.

Brochures were available. Thank you Paula.

There are new regulations on Irrigation coming out 3/8/2009. Jerry Cameron is concerned with enforcement by the County. They currently have 6 employees assigned to enforcement for 600 miles and with budget constraints it is not likely they will increase staff.

Next meeting is scheduled for March 9, 2009 at 9:00 am. Guest Speaker will be Neal the River Keeper.

Motion to adjourn. Voted yes to approve. Chairman McLane adjourned at 10:35 am.

