



## **General Membership Meeting December 9, 2014**

- 1) Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Marilyn Mammano, President at 7:50 PM
- 2) Police Report:** Lt. Shultz reported that since his last communication with us in August the routing of calls at the communications center has greatly improved and they are continuing to address all of the citizen complaints and concerns as they come in. As always, they have stepped up patrols on major thoroughfares and the beach. Larcenies and car burglaries are down. People are doing a better job of keeping their valuables out of site and the store security personnel are doing a good job. If the police receive a call that goes through Fort Lauderdale Customer Service the call is routed to the Lt. on duty. The phone system has recently been changed and problems are being worked on and if you need to contact someone in charge during business hours, you need to call the non-emergency police number and ask for the patrol secretary who can route the call.
- 3) Mayor Jack Seiler:** He stated that he stopped by to thank everyone for their efforts in the city that we do day in and day out and it is amazing that when he goes around to other cities and discuss how active Fort Lauderdale is and our volunteer spirit. He attended a meeting with officials of several cities and he was proud to address them with our activity and they were also impressed. He also said that we can look forward to a very exciting year coming up and hopes we can keep the momentum up. The city tourism growth has continued for 59 straight months, we have the lowest unemployment rate for a major metropolitan area in the state now at 5%. Four or Five years ago it was thought we would never see 5% again.

There is a workshop coming up in January concerning development. We need to set a vision as to the city going forward with development and redevelopment and doing what the neighborhoods want to see and what they don't want to see. The commission has been pretty consistent with keeping density and the poor downtown to protect the neighborhoods. He asked that we attend the workshop and it will probably shape what is going to transpire over the next five or ten years how the city is going to develop and redevelop. He would like to see more park space in the city small and large. He wished everyone a healthy and happy holiday season, be safe and continue to work with the commission and continue to communicate. If you haven't already, get with your neighborhoods and get concerns and ideas to them. It makes it easy for the commission to address issues with the neighborhood help. Marilyn stated that our next meeting is a few days away from the workshop meeting and our main agenda for the meeting is to be prepared for the workshop. Bruce asked if there was a way to show how zoning as it is will impact how the city will look. The mayor wasn't sure, but

said that he thought Commissioner Romney has a sample of a 3D map that will show how the zoning will look and said we should contact him concerning it.

- 4) **Roll Call:** In lieu of a formal roll call and with many new faces here tonight, Marilyn determined that it would be best if we just went around the room and let everyone introduce themselves. On completion, Ron Centamore determined that a quorum existed.
- 5) **Minutes Approval:** Jackson made a motion to accept the minutes from the October 14<sup>th</sup> general meeting minutes and seconded by Betty. The motion passed unanimously.
- 6) **Meeting Schedule Change:** Rochelle made a motion at our last executive board meeting that passed to cancel our normal February meeting on February 10<sup>th</sup> to participate in the City Neighbor Support Night on February 12<sup>th</sup>. The nominating committee report will be done at the January meeting instead of February and nominations from the floor for CFLCA Officers and Board Members will be taken in January instead of February and nominations from the floor will also be accepted at the March meeting when the actual elections will take place. Marilyn personally thanked everyone especially the board for their participation and going to extra meetings every month taking care of business.
- 7) **Review of the last year:** January, meeting on the comprehensive economic development plan. Al Battle is wanting to present the results of that. Maybe at our March meeting. February, Neighbor support night March, St. Patrick's Day Parade, we had a lot of participation and great fun. At our meeting we discussed homeless issues, ordinances on loitering, feeding and solicitation which we have seen recently that the hornet's nest has been kicked and the status-quo has been disrupted and we will see if there will be progress to come or more problems to be addressed. April, Fort Lauderdale Care Day, adopt a neighbor, a project headed by Jorg that helps fix up properties for citizens unable to keep their properties in good shape. May, Storm Water Management with the Director of Public Works and the City Manager to discuss what is being done concerning storm water and rising seas. Also, we discussed the convention center and invited them, but they declined and we asked everyone to attend the meetings on the convention center next year that is posted on our website. June, Crime Stoppers and Hands Only CPR. August, we began our discussion on the School Bond Issue, the head of the Education Advisory Board and Dr. Blackburn spoke concerning the issue. September, the city staff came to discuss the changes to the social services ordinances, buffering them from the neighborhoods. We didn't do anything concerning the elections, but supported the neighborhoods who put together a program. October, Superintendent Runcie the reasons for the bond issue and it was a success and passed by a huge majority. He did promise an oversight committee and we will be keeping a close eye on that. Jackson brought up they have a banner put up at Sunrise Middle showing where all of the money is going. Edna from Lauderdale Manors brought up that the school board has a complete listing of all the schools and the amount being spent and suggested that the CFLCA get the list and distribute. Marilyn stated that it was a good idea and we could possibly utilize our website to display the list.

Marilyn stated that we had a couple of wins this year: the short term residential use / vacation rentals that we had a very good committee work on it, including Richard Johns from Lauderdale Harbors and other persons writing letters to the elected officials on the issue that

lead to the state legislation being passed to ok vacation rentals with very strict exceptions that include that you cannot prohibit them or regulate the duration. The regulation does not address the one night and weekend rentals and we will have to wait and see what the commission will do in reaction to the new legislation – they have not responded and the committee will continue to keep an eye on it. Also we have had some success with quiet zones, Steve Stahl showed the published map of the quiet zone for the county and explained that only some of the crossings will need to be addressed with supplementary improvements, medians added, crossings closed, etc. to make the entire stretch through the county eligible for a quiet zone. Bruce stated that the Coast Guard is preparing a lengthy report concerning the railroad crossing over the New River and they are stating the negative impact this is making on the marine industry west of the tracks with very lengthy closings and have recorded closings longer than 20 minutes. It was also mentioned that the Federal Railroad Administration had received 8,000 letters concerning All Aboard Florida, not just from Broward but from a number of communities north of Broward.

- 8) Direction of the CFLCA in the coming year:** Marilyn stated that we need to discuss what it is we want to work on and set priorities. As you recall in our meeting last December, we discussed the Juvenile Justice System and the problems with juveniles committing crimes but also how to keep them from committing crimes. Chief Adderley spoke to us concerning the city's perspective concerning the issue and stated that a small number are committing the bulk of the crimes and that the police department is spending a lot of time making sure they are attending school and giving them help with options and alternatives. There appears to be a problem between the County Juvenile Justice System and the Fort Lauderdale Police and pressure has been placed on the judges to use the tools they have to improve the situation.

Marilyn opened the floor for suggestions:

Edna stated that the school districts are holding meetings throughout 2015 concerning repurposing the failing schools of Fort Lauderdale and suggests that we get the schedule and attend as many of those meetings that we can. Betty has access to the list and will share with us.

Ray Dettmann stated that the city, due to us being a donor city pay out more taxes to the county than we receive in services. He has attended the Homeless Advisory Committee meetings and that there are 2,800 homeless in the county and they should be the lead agency with the issue. He believes the council should lobby the county to do more on the issue and municipalities that arrest persons and bring them to the county jail, processed then released that that the county make sure those persons are returned to their arrest location, not added to our problem with the homeless in the city. Marilyn stated that she personally sent a letter to the mayor stating that he was doing a good job and that things could not just continue as they are and that we needed to put more pressure on the county to do more. We only have one facility, the Hac in Fort Lauderdale and the county needs to step up and deal with the issue. Ron stated that the Council needed to take a stance on the issue and send a letter to the commission to back their ordinances. Marilyn stated that we are a membership organization and that we must have a consensus in order to back the commission's actions. Steve Birmingham stated that he felt that since it was not on the agenda he feels that he would need to discuss the matter with his board before approval of the letter. Benjamin Sessions

stated that he felt that South Middle River would support the letter. Marilyn stated that we need to invite our county representatives to a meeting to address the issue and decide if we want to deal with it individually or as a group. Donna Guthrie of Melrose Park stated that they are seeing homeless that they have never seen before and numerous members also stated the same issue and all agreed it's not just downtown. Lawrence Jackson-Rosen stated that it is important that we educate our neighbors that this is not a ban against feeding, but the city is just doing what other cities are doing and have done to make sure it is being done in a safe and clean manner.

Lawrence also he brought up that the Council needed to address the problems with the building department, code enforcement concerning boarded up buildings, over aggressive spiteful complaints between neighbors and homeowners that are held to current code guidelines on buildings having any permit work being done on any improvements to their property that was to code at the time of construction. Marilyn stated we need to get Shannon from Code Enforcement back to discuss those issues.

Steve Birmingham brought up that we invite the candidates that file for the election coming up to an extended meet and greet in January. Also that there is a County Safe Streets Forum coming up in January that we should attend and he will get the information to us.

Marilyn stated that the City Manager makes sure that items that the commission works on are weighted on the impact to the vision plan for the city concerning streets, sidewalks, infrastructure, etc. The county has huge funds to address those issues and we need to make sure we receive our fair share for the city.

Donna Guthrie brought up that they have started a pilot program working with Juveniles with 1 or 2 infractions, with one being burglary, mentoring with them in the attempt to make them responsible citizens. Marilyn stated that the Broward County Sheriff wants to come and discuss what they are doing to help with the juvenile crime issue.

Brucie brought up a problem with our air quality. There seems to be an increase in soot in the last year or so that she thought would decrease when FPL took down the stacks on their coal fired generators. But due to more planes, trains, ships and traffic in general with some using cheap fuels and we need to focus on the health issues that the increase brings.

**9) Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:58pm.