



General Membership Meeting March 10, 2015

- 1) **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Marilyn Mammano, President at 7:30 PM
- 2) **Roll Call:** Ron Centamore, First VP called attendance and declared a quorum.
- 3) **Welcome:** Coral Ridge Isles, Chuck Howard and Gerald Benjamin. Jim Ellis representing Lauderdale Beach for Richard Johns who has been a representative for our legislative committee. Also, the last 2 distinguished citizens of Fort Lauderdale, Mr. Ellis and Ms. Shelley.
- 4) **Police Report:** Lt. Lynette Falzone, District 3 stated that crime rates in the city over the last 3 software that will be used to address the problem with the city's software not being compliant with the call center software and training is now being done on the new software that they hope to implement by April 1st. New features of the software will enable previous infractions to pop up when identifications are entered into the system. The plan is to address the complaint issues that are being received concerning the call center.
- 5) **Minutes approval:** A motion was made by Betty Shelley and seconded by Chuck Black. The minutes were approved unanimously.
- 6) **Treasurer's Report:** Deferred.
- 7) **County Commissioner's Program:** Marilyn thanked Tim Ryan's staff for making this program a public meeting due to the fact 2 or more of the commissioners are speaking. Also, thanks to Barbara Magill, from Lauderdale Harbors for all her efforts making the program possible. Marilyn stated that the importance of tonight's program is to hear what is important that they are working on and plan to get accomplished.
District 4 Commissioner Chip LaMarca: Has served 4 years as commissioner and came from the Lighthouse Point Commission. He thanked all the people who serve on the HOA and Community Associations for their service. Transportation is a large service that the county provides from the Sun Trolley Circulator, Para Transit for persons with disability issues which most of the fleet has recently been changed over to propane fueled vehicles using federal funds to help the environment, the many busses that serve major thoroughfares and express busses between Broward and Miami-Dade that are mostly federally funded transportation grant and have been highly successful. The county also deals with water issues such as wastewater, reclaimed water and canals. The county operates 37 libraries, and a park system that some rival state parks. District 4 covers 73% of beaches in Broward County. Agreements with Fort Lauderdale, Lauderdale by the Sea and Pompano and the Federal Government \$22.5 million of federal funds are coming in to replenish the sand on our beaches with sand from Central Florida. The payback on reimbursement is slow in coming, we recently received reimbursement on work that was done in 2006. 3 years of work has been done at FLL constructing a 8,000 ft. south runway that is elevated 62 feet to

cross over existing railroad, perimeter road, federal highway and port everglade property. The airport is self-sustained and a low cost provider airport and cost is less per passenger seat at FLL (\$7 now and returning to a \$5 range soon) as compared to MIA @ \$22 and PBI @ \$14. Terminal 4 is being enlarged to double its present size and will connect to Terminal 3 to accommodate the increase in carriers and a 24-25% increase in international flights.

District 9 Commissioner Dale V.C. Holness: Thanked everyone for their service to the community. His District 9 is shaped like a heart and is the heart of the county. The biggest problem he faces in his district is how to increase employment. Broward County has a 4.5% unemployment rate and parts of his district runs as high as 44%. We need to reach out to neighborhoods who have been left behind, for whatever reason, and is important that we reach out through creative and innovative means to bring them out of the situation. He has been working closely with the school board and Superintendent Runcie had an elementary school converted into a technical training center. Transportation is another issue for persons in the district that have no means of getting to training centers elsewhere. He works closely with OIC, Urban League and other agencies to work on issues in the district. The CRA is working to eliminate blight, but it is only on the major streets with blight just behind the improvement due to poverty and unemployment and CRA's don't address that issue. We now require on capital improvement projects that their employment come from within the community along with training and membership programs in return for the investment in their projects. Small businesses are barely making it and need more help similar to the help given to large businesses to increase employment and create high paying jobs. Tourism, the largest industry, needs to be drawn from the beach to diverse and cultural areas inside the county. Family reunions are also on the increase. Brazil is the number one tourist draw and when Azul Airlines started flying to Fort Lauderdale they sold out 3 months in advance. Other countries in the world are building and expanding outside their country with their labor, their products. We should be doing the same but economists are discussing defunding our export bank that helps small businesses in marketplaces. In 2011 the commission set up the Florida International Trade and Cultural Expo that will be held on October 10th, 2016. The goal is to have 200 foreign and 400 US businesses. We need to plan for the future with zoning, to deal with foreign exchange and transportation issues and create mixed use areas that support the needs around them and get more vehicles off the road.

District 7 Commissioner Tim Ryan: Due to recent changes at the airport safety regulations have required planes taking off to maintain a safe distance from one another. The planes are now peeling off quickly at a low altitude over several neighborhoods in Fort Lauderdale creating excessive noise. With the help of US Representative Lois Frankel an attempt is being made for the planes to maintain their heading to a higher altitude and distance before turning to alleviate some of the noise from the neighborhoods. On the seaport we have been waiting 17 years for permission to widen and deepen the channel. They have now approved the environmental impact statement and the environmental impact statement. The channel now is 42 ft. deep and some large ships are offloading fuel in the Bahamas prior to coming to Fort Lauderdale. Some are traveling to deeper ports in Savannah, GA the Chinese are building a huge deep water port in Cuba. We expect to have the Chief's report from the Army Corps of Engineers in the next several months. This will lead to a permit and already we are in the design and engineering phase and the project is a very important part of economic development and thousands of jobs. A railroad spur is being put in to improve the handling of containers off the ships. Port Everglades supplies fuel to 14 counties in South Florida. If we ever had a problem in the channel, within 3 days there would be no aviation fuel, and fuel for vehicles. On the Wave Streetcar we are working on finalizing the funding for the project. In the future the hope is that on the south end of the Streetcar line to have a light rail system to extend out to the airport so from downtown to the airport without vehicles and parking issues. There is also presently discussion about a light rail system from the airport to the

seaport to alleviate traffic on the 17th St. Causeway from all the tourists taking cruises and with the light rail and streetcar systems it will give them an opportunity to spend money downtown and on 17th Street. The problem is that light rail is very expensive and one of the ways that is being discussed is a penny sales tax for transportation. If approved by the voters it would improve traffic congestion, traffic light synchronization, and move forward with all the projects the Broward County Metropolitan Planning Organization has with the help of state and federal funds. On climate change we are discussing the problem of street flooding and that is another component that would be looked at if the penny sales tax is enacted. We need a recurring source of revenue to cover the tax gap which last year was \$25 million and to make that up it comes out of the general fund which is made up from property and business taxes and that gap is going to increase if a funding source is not found. Fort Lauderdale recently requested that density be increased downtown by 5,000 residential units. Broward County has approved the transmittal of the conceptual plan to Tallahassee and will be sent back to Broward County for a final review and decision. We must plan to protect the surrounding neighborhoods from undue stress created by the addition of 5,000 residential units downtown. The city and the county will work together on this and there will be peace in the valley between the city and the county on this issue.

Marilyn stated that we are very concerned about the homeless issue and when going to the city asking for more affordable housing and services we are told that it is a county problem. The city has initiated ordinances concerning the secondary impact of the homeless but we are not seeing improvement in the lives of the homeless. Commissioner Holness stated that the issue needs to be addressed holistically not just one night in a shelter and back out the next day but insure that we not have shelters but permanent housing for those persons. Out of the proposed 5,000 units a portion could be assigned as affordable housing such as Palm Beach County has done, they require 15% of the developments to be affordable housing for x number of years. Some discussions have taken place to split the penny sales tax between transportation and the homeless. Tim Ryan stated that the federal government requirements are to get as many people off the street as possible into either apartments or affordable housing. Broward County has created a Broward Homeless Continue of Care Advisory Board which consists of a variety of groups and industries in the city and the county that come up with ideas to address the situation and we now have rapid re-housing. In regards to the penny sales tax which would generate \$240 million annually, the homeless issue would only require \$35 million annually to address the problem, all the rest will be needed for the highly expensive rail and streetcar systems that are needed and close the tax gap that now amounts to \$25 million last year and going up to be funded. Doug Sterner thanked the commissioners for their attendance to the meeting and asked if they were aware of the Council's Consensus Plan that outlines our priorities and would like to share the report with you to continue the dialog we have started. Tim Ryan mentioned that he forgot to mention and introduce John Bertino who is the Community Liaison for Commissioner Ryan that attends our meetings.

- 8) Board Elections:** Doug Sterner explained that every 2 years elections are held for board positions. A nominating committee is formed and the first report was in January and the final report and the election total. All of the present board members have agreed to continue for another term. There was one vacancy and Lester Williams agreed to fill the post. Betty Shelley requests to be nominated for District 1 representative and Cathy Stubbs requests to be nominated for Chair of Committees. Chuck Black nominated Betty Shelley and Cathy Stubbs and there were multiple seconds.

The full slate:

President: Marilyn Mammano
1st Vice President: Ron Centamore
2nd Vice President: Jackson Boren
Treasurer: Rochelle Golub

Recording Secretary: Steve Stahl
Corresponding Secretary: Linda Nugent
District 1 Representative: Betty Shelley
District 2 Representative: Chuck Black
District 3 Representative: Lester Williams
District 4 Representative: Brucie Cummings
Chair of Committees: Cathy Stubbs

Doug Sterner asked if there were any nominations from the floor for any of the positions. There were none. A motion was made and seconded to close the nominations and was approved unanimously.

- 9) **Commission Density Workshop:** March 24th concerning the 5,000 unit request for downtown and all of the flex units throughout the city.
- 10) **Comprehensive Plan:** The plan was last revised in 2008 and the state requires periodic revisions to the plan and ours is now due. Steve Buckingham of Tarpon River has agreed to be the Chairman of our Comprehensive Plan Committee and asks for individuals interested to help with the effort to contact him. Steve stated that the idea is not to create the document from scratch but look over what has changed in the last 8 years and make necessary changes to make the document current. A presentation at our meeting could be scheduled in the next several months to cover the nuts and bolts of the plan. There will be public meetings along the way and the Council will send out a notice.
- 11) **Poinciana Park Kaboom Project:** Susan Howell stated that on May 9th in Poinciana Park on South 21st Street, 1 block west of US 1 a playground will be built in 1 day from 8am to 2pm and we need 100 volunteers to help out with the effort.
- 12) **13th Street Alliance:** Chuck Black read a letter from the Lake Ridge President, Michael Albetta explaining their reasons for leaving the 13th Street Alliance and expressed that they are not a representative of and do not speak for the Lake Ridge Civic Association. Steve Stahl also stated that the Middle River Terrace left the 13th St. Alliance several months ago for basically the same reasons.
- 12) **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm.

Respectfully submitted, Steve Stahl, Recording Secretary