

**Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Associations
General Membership Meeting
August 12, 2014**

- 1) **Extended Meet & Greet:** 7:00-7:40 pm with 12 judge candidates and 1 school board candidate. Marilyn stated that there is great concern with juvenile crime and at a board meeting 2 months ago with the police and they informed us that 70-90 juveniles are responsible for the majority of crime. There needs to be more cooperation between the police, juvenile justice and the courts. Captain Dietrich has given us a document that is posted on our website under city events: FLPD and Juvenile Justice “Understanding what the Fort Lauderdale Police Department (FLPD) is doing to combat Juvenile Crime in the City of Fort Lauderdale Q&A” The police are doing a lot and they need to get the word out.
- 2) **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Marilyn Mammano, President at 7:40 PM
- 3) **Roll Call:** Ron Centamore, First VP called attendance and declared a quorum.
- 4) **Approval of minutes:** A motion to approve the June 10th meeting minutes was made by Jackson Boren and seconded by Steve Buckanhan. The minutes were approved unanimously.
- 5) **Police Report:** 3rd District Sgt. Tim McCarthy said the police are working with the Juvenile Justice department and are becoming more involved with the juveniles by doing home checks around the clock making sure they are where they are supposed to be. The relocation of the dispatch center from the police department building, equipment and personnel, to Sunrise went seamlessly on August 1st and the officers have been trained on the new software that is being used. Before the end of the year major changes are being made regarding police reports and traffic stops. Lost reports will be a thing of the past, going from paper to paperless with printers and license scanners in the patrol cars and the officers will be able to, on the spot, access previous stops, warrants in many other cities across the country. Fred Carlson expressed concern about the new system, Com Stat, and asked if any other system was being considered that would work better. Sgt. McCarthy responded that the department was going with the majority of the country using the same system. Tim Smith thanked the police for the exceptional job they are doing in reducing crime and hopes that the department is in it for the long haul. The new non-emergency number is 954-764-4357(help), for general information dial 954-828-8000.
- 6) **Candidate introductions:** Mr. McGee explained the ballot for all races. 14 candidates introduced themselves.
- 7) **Broward County School Bond Issue:** Coming up on the November ballot, Dr. Blackburn and the Education Advisory Board are here to discuss the \$800 Million Bond Issue. Dr. Blackburn stated that on June 9th, School Superintendent Robert Runcie and the board voted in favor of committing \$800Million to the Capitol Fund for the Broward County School System. The main questions he has received are where is the money going? And what is the plan? He stated that great strides have been made in algebra and reading and emphasis is

being placed on job training and computer programming. 60% of the computers in the system are out of date and the ratio at present is 1 computer for 5 students. Since 2007 the millage rate for homeowners has been reduced from \$2/M to \$1.50/M presently, positive for homeowners, but over that period of time has resulted in a loss of \$1.8 Billion in revenue. The plan for the money is to resolve issues with lack of student equipment and address other capital repairs and improvements that need to be made. Robert Runcie under his direction has reduced a school size penalty fine from \$65 Million to \$40,000 and also the Broward County School Healthcare is Self-Insured, costing \$200 Million saving \$18.9 Million. The School Board actually has a need for \$3 Billion, but it is not feasible to complete such a massive project in a reasonable amount of time. At \$800 Million the average homeowner with a value of \$250M the tax would be an additional \$50/yr. for 30 yrs. The School Board may not ask for all \$800 Million, but possibly \$200 Million to start and the additional tax would be \$12.50/yr. Dr. Blackburn stated that his focus is 1. Sensitivity to the public. 2. Meet reasonable expectations. 3. Address the present negative trust factor. The School Board has adopted an acronym SMART which stands for safety & security, music & arts, athletics, repair, and technology. These are the main items that will be addressed with the money. He stated that there would be a complete list and accounting of what the money is to be used for prior to the November vote on the issue.

Chester Ludwig stated that a survey done in 2012-2013 showed there was a significant negative perception as to how funds were being used and there is a marketing plan being devised to address the issue. The education advisory board has not voted to accept or reject the issue and due to the Sunshine Law, he is unable to discuss their plans before it is presented to the Commission. Multiple comments were made by Council Members concerning the eastern schools problems are not being addressed and the schools on the west side get an unfair larger share of funds for non-essential projects. The school board needs to think out of the box to be more efficient and effective. The question was raised: What is the contingency plan if the bond issue fails? Dr. Blackburn stated that any fund needed to address horrific capital expenditures, it would be necessary to take funds from the operating budget that may lead to the loss of full and part time positions. None of the bond issue funds can be used for any operation budget item. There will be a public oversight committee selected through an application process to protect the public's interest.

8) Public Participation Ordinance: A Council Committee has been working on the issue for over a year and Rochelle Golub gave a report ~~stating that the city and~~ explaining the city staff and the Council concerns to quantify public input concerning new development. These types of development would require site plan level approval. They go before planning and zoning and sometimes before the commission for approval. This does not apply to run of the mill houses, but projects that require site level approval. The problem in the neighborhoods is that the developers run the plan through DRC and then to planning and zoning with little notice to the communities. There is an informal policy that city staff and Planning and Zoning requires developers to have presentations in the community before carrying the project forward. The ordinance is designed to take that informal policy and create a better working relationship between the developers and the communities giving all time to achieve the best working plan before presenting to Planning and Zoning. Developers will be required to notify HOAs and Civics-within 300 feet of a project, which is not a great distance, and chances are

that it will remain 300 feet. Groups of townhouses as an example would not receive notice. The developers must send out notices 3 weeks prior to filing plans with DRC. DRC is currently sending agendas to all presidents of all recognized communities civic organizations. Communities must address issues in their area promptly and there will be no excuse claiming not knowing about the project. The developer must have a public meeting 30 days prior to the actual presentation ~~and a report of the results of planned meetings to~~ planning and zoning. He must provide a report to Sustainable Development regarding the public meeting.

Rochelle Golub made a motion that the Council officially notifies the Department of Sustainability and the Commission that we approve the Public Participation Ordinance as it is written. Motion seconded by Dave Hershel. Marilyn commented that a lot of work has been done with some suggestions accepted and some denied but what we are giving approval of is a lot better than what we have. There are other issues regarding public participation but they are not part of this ordinance. Fred Carlson expressed concern about there not being given enough time to discuss plans with only 10 days after notice of a meeting. Rochelle stated the 10 days refers to the time the report has to be presented to staff. The meetings are held 30 days before. The affidavit that notice was given is what is due. The burden is on the developer to submit reports not the communities and they should review the report and if they disagree with the report, file a complaint. When the plan is submitted to planning and zoning it is THE plan and all changes have been made prior to that submission. Even at that point, the community does not have to lay down and take it as is. If there are still concerns with the plan after approval it can still be taken up with the commission for changes. The motion was passed unanimously.

Marilyn announced that the meeting in September would be large.

9) Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Steve Stahl, Recording Secretary