

Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Associations
General Membership Meeting
September 9, 2014

- 1) **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Marilyn Mammano, President at 7:30 PM
- 2) **Commemoration:** Dennis Ulmer delivered a remembrance of September 11, 2001 pointing out ceremonies to take place across the country and in the Fort Lauderdale Fire and History Museum and stated that we are survivors and will always remember 9/11 on our terms, not on our enemy's and how we came together as one in the aftermath of the incident. We lived up to our motto on the Great Seal – E Pluribus Unum - "*Out of many, one*".
- 3) **Roll Call:** Ron Centamore, First VP called attendance and declared a quorum.
- 4) **Treasurer's Report:** Balances submitted after the meeting adjournment by Rochelle Golub:
CD: \$5,110 – Checking Account: \$4,159.
- 5) **Police Report:** FLPD Sgt. Schultz stated that the entire department wears a commemorative badge during the month of September in remembrance of 9/11. There are still many requests for information how to contact the police:
954-764-4357 – non-emergency, the Regional Communication Center in Sunrise.
911 – for ALL EMERGENCIES.
954-828-8000 – contact persons and officers at the Fort Lauderdale Police Department. Ron Centamore stated that a recent 911 call resulted in a 45 minute wait for officers to arrive. Sgt. Schultz stated that the combined mix of Broward Sheriff Office employees and the FLPD employees that make up the Regional Communication Center are going through a learning curve and for example, if there was not a FLPD employee on that shift when the call came in it could be that the Broward Sheriff Office employee may not be well versed in the FLPD procedures and the call may have not been handled correctly. If there are any further instances, call Sgt. Shultz directly at 954-828-5794. Marilyn stated that there has been a recent increase in the homeless moving outside the downtown area and into other neighborhood and it could be due to the fact that there is more enforcement taking place in the downtown area. To be effective, enforcement needs to be overall or it is not solving the issue, it is only moving it to other areas. Is there anything being done to address it? Sgt. Shultz stated that if a homeless person is on private property it is trespassing and to call 911 and report it. The parks department has added a person to solely monitor the homeless in parks and is applying for grants for more opportunities to address the problems with the homeless. Fred Carlson reported that the beach area has resumed to normal and would like to thank the officers that patrol the beach for their efforts.
- 6) **Approval of Minutes:** A motion to accept the minutes from the August 12th meeting was made by Jackson Boren and seconded by Luis Castillo. They were approved unanimously.
- 7) **Budget Manager Presentation:** Emily Smith, Budget Manager, stated that there have been a lot of changes in the last three years and Lee Feldman has done an excellent job in bringing the commission together and is a true visionary. The Budget Advisory Board works hard to make sure all departments are on the same page by having departments attend their board meetings. The Board has adopted both the 35 year vision plan and a 5 year plan and each year they put forth initiatives to work towards meeting the expectations of the plans. Every year the Commission

adopts an action plan to target what they are working to accomplish in the next 12 months. A slide show was presented that discussed property tax rates that have remained the same for 8 straight years, \$207 million loss of property taxes collected since 2007, where all of the city's revenue comes from and how it is used, enhancement of service levels and parks and recreation, increased public safety, improvements of streets and neighborhood infrastructure and signage. 10 completed NCIP projects were shown and there is \$500,000 available in NCIP grants to do more. Some are shovel ready waiting for matching funds.

8) Budget Advisory Committee Presentation: June Page, Chairperson, stated that the Budget Advisory Board typically meets monthly, but during the budget preparation cycle, they meet 4 times per week. They review budgets prior to the prep cycle and each member reviews a department. They work on 2 basic principles that the budget is balanced and structurally sound. They also look into the future to see if the city is working towards the goals that have been set. We have presented a sound budget that can compete with any city budget in the country. One of the problems that they see is that management has significantly cut cost and to the point where employees are pressed to do their jobs and detail up to 12 hours a day to get their jobs done. Also, they feel there is not enough funds for maintenance of infrastructure to meet the vision of 2035. The revenue is not increasing and they cannot apply enough funds to address capital improvements and they see that as a major problem. The budget is sound now, but indicated that it cannot go on like this, that revenue needs to increase and the only city expenditures on capital improvement are in the downtown and central beach areas. A few neighborhoods have projects working that have matching funds from other sources that will be worked on. The suggestion was made that citizens report things they see that need to be address brought to the attention of their Commissioner and Mayor. Brucie Cummings asked if there was a possibility that the millage rate would be increased, and June replied that they have suggested to the Commission for the last several years. Ron Centamore said he agrees that the millage rate should be increased and raised the question why flooding is not being addressed and there is a project that has been approved and through a grant and the CRA \$1.2 million has been ok'd for a project and nothing has been done in 5 years. Public Works has several other projects that have funding and not waiting on matching funds and nothing is getting done. The only answer has been "we are working on it". The Director of Public Works, Hardeep Anand, stated that he could not speak about specific projects, but he will look into them. As far as sidewalk projects go, a study has been done and is going to be presented to the Commission hopefully in October. Marilyn suggested that the Director and Ron get together to address the issues. Tim Smith stated that the city has been operating lean for a number of years and values were down and now they have picked up about 6%. The city is down 300 – 400 employees and commented how, as an example can you design all of the upcoming projects with less engineers? Also, there is \$100,000 in the budget for furniture in the building department. June replied that the funds were for a combination of remodeling and furniture. Jenni Morejon, Director Designee of the Sustainable Development Department, stated that the public lobby space and other working areas need to be enhanced and enlarged to handle the current and future flow of business. Marilyn stated that we have noticed that the city is outsourcing jobs and we need to have a discussion are we saving any money doing this and what are we losing as far as the person to person relationships with the persons that actually do the work. There was concern expressed that funds were not equally distributed in different areas of the city. June responded that a neighborhood is a powerful voice in getting things done and associations should communicate all of their concerns to their Commissioner and the Mayor. Marilyn stated that Hal Barnes would address us soon concerning the NCIP backlog, neighborhood concerns and the issue of funds being equally shared throughout the city.

10) Community Facilities Presentation: Jenni Morejon, Director Designee of the Sustainable Development Department, stated that her presentation of the Overview of Social Service Facility Ordinance Update only pertains to SSF (Social Service Facilities), it does not include SSRF (Social Service Residential Facilities). The SSF that is being addressed are facilities that offer food service and others that offer humanitarian service to specific groups of the population, but does not include the residential facilities. The ordinance was instigated by a court case in 2001 where Fort Lauderdale was required to have more objective criteria to approve or disapprove social service facilities. This ordinance is bundled with others, such as, camping and soliciting in public right of way. The ordinance does not directly address homeless issues, we are attempting to blend this in to the other ordinances to eliminate conflicts. There are 14 key points of the ordinance, the first is definitions. Previously facilities were grouped into 1 general category and we did not have criteria set up to approve or disapprove facilities. Also, where should these facilities be located in our city – allowed and limited. And how do we balance the negative impact created in the neighborhoods. The process that facilities have to go through is being defined as to what board approves them. The ordinance defines 4 types of facilities: Addiction Treatment Center. Food Distribution Center, typically inside a building, can be the primary or secondary use such as a house of worship. Outdoor Food Distribution Center which the property owner has applied for approval and this category also includes all the other SSF general facilities. The hours of operation of the facilities are 7AM to 7PM. When a facility is applied for, there must be a management plan detailing who is responsible, licenses from the city, county or state entities that they have. Recently, in a determination by the Planning & Zoning, no more than 1 location per city block. A map was shown which indicated the zones that allow social services. The areas designated are mostly in commercial areas to take advantage of the transportation and governmental agencies that are available in those areas. Areas have been trimmed back to meet the aforementioned criteria and any facility must be no closer than 500 feet from another facility. Areas such as Dixie Highway shown on the map have residents closer than 500 feet east and west, so it has been removed from the plan. Flagler Heights areas were changed to meet the needs of citizens in areas that meet the criteria for facilities. The Department feels it is a step in the right direction. There is also an anti-concentration portion of the ordinance which states that in addition to Planning and Zoning's ruling of 1 per city block, there cannot be any facilities within 500 feet of each other. Another twist is that if the particular city block is longer than 500 feet, only 1 facility can be located on that block. The ordinance went before planning and zoning in July, they asked staff to go back and get more public input and it went back to planning and zoning on August 20, 2014 and passed unanimously. Planning and Zoning will forward their recommendation to the Commission on October 7, 2014 and the second reading on October 21, 2014 for approval. Rochelle Golub ask if a pain clinic is included in the ordinance, and it is not. Also can the facility have more than 1 use, such as, food distribution part of the time, and an unrelated service like haircuts the rest of the time? Jenni replied that as long as the facility met all of the requirements to be a SSF, and all activity is done at that one location. It cannot be one bldg. for food distribution, one for haircuts, etc. Camille Carole, member of Flagler Village Neighborhood Association, and long-time resident of the neighborhood. She expressed concern that it appears that all of the SSF facilities will be in Flagler Village and downtown and would like to know how many facilities are located in Flagler Village and how many more are going to be allowed, and where the food distribution center is going to be. Jenni replied that the area from Davie to Sunrise has been determined to be a heavy commercial area that is a prime location for SSF facilities. The city has no plans of adding any facilities that are not applied for and they will be scrutinized by all the criteria in the ordinance before it is approved. Steve Buckingham, Tarpon

River, asked if the existing facilities outside the designated areas will have to close, or will they be grandfathered in? Jenni replied that they would be grandfathered in and there is no plan to address the locations at present, but if they close, and do not re-open within 6 months they will not be allowed to re-open. A question was asked if a facility has closed and a new owner comes in, would they be allowed to do so? Does a dental service come under the ordinance? Jenni replied that as long as the services at that facility have not changed and they hold all the previous owners licenses, etc. a new owner could resume operations, if not, they will have to re-apply to be a SSF. A dental facility is covered under a different ordinance and criteria. Katherine Mauss, Victoria Park commented that development and general standards, outside waiting areas should be included in the management plan to prevent those issues from not being addressed or not properly submitted. Also, she feels that the 500 feet distance is not enough and expressed the issue of residences being directly across the street from a facility that could be 60 feet. Jenni replied that the measure used would be from the property line to the property line, so a facility would not be allowed across the street from a residence. The department cannot cover all the neighborhood associations, but uses the council as a sound board and communicate with neighborhoods as best they can with all zoning change information. Luis Castillo raised a question concerning houses of worship less than 500 feet apart and in residential area would be allowed to operate a SSF facility. Eric Engman, Planner, Dept. of Sustainable Development replied that as the ordinance stands now, a secondary use could be permitted for all churches. Andrew Gordon, Victoria Park, asked if temporary feeding like it is done in Stranahan Park, would that be allowed. It would if they apply and meet all the criteria of the ordinance, otherwise they would have to shut down. The ordinance will evolve over time to meet critical issues that come up. Marilyn stated that if anyone is interested the social services ordinance is listed on the website for your review.

- 11) **EDUCATION BOND ISSUE:** Betty Shelly, member of the Education Advisory Board stated that she attended a meeting at Northeast High School, but there was not enough participation by parents and the public. You could sign up to speak and the meeting was handled very well. Superintendent Runcie, District 2 board member Heather Brinkworth and Robin Bartleman sat on the stage and speakers came up to the stage and asked their questions. There were a lot of persons wanting to speak concerning Northeast High School. The school is located in Oakland Park, but a lot of Fort Lauderdale students attend there. The school is in need of a new roof and Mr. Runcie stated that it would be necessary for the bond issue to pass to do the major repairs needed at Northeast and Stranahan schools. Betty said that Heather Brinkworth and Robin Bartleman could possibly come to one of our board meetings soon, since they are unable to attend due to the fact that their meeting is being held the same time as our general meeting. The next meeting to be held in our area is on November 1, 2014 from 9am to 1:15pm at the Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention Center. The meeting is exclusively for discussion about the bond issue. The Education Advisory Board has yet to make a decision yet and are planning to decide next week.
- 12) **FOR THE GOOD OF THE COMMUNITY:** There is a CVC Program – Clean-up and painting in Holiday Park on September 27, 2014 for points. The council is attempting to get all events and issues on the website.
- 13) **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:58pm.

Respectfully submitted, Steve Stahl, Recording Secretary