



CITRUS COUNTY COUNCIL

Working together to preserve the quality of life in Citrus County.

Minutes of General Meeting April 14, 2010

CALL TO ORDER: *President Theodora Rusnak*, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE: President Rusnak led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: Secretary Rosella Hale was absent. In her place, Treasurer Carl Simpson called the roll of Associate Members and Member Organizations. A quorum was established.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT: Lace Blue-McLean announced the upcoming Citrus 20/20 Vision Check and encouraged members to sign up for the May 15 event.

GUEST SPEAKER: *Ben Stoffcheck, AES Administrator and Instructor*, addressed the delegation regarding the Academy of Environmental Sciences, a Citrus County charter school for students grade 9 – 12. The school combines core curriculum in the sciences with additional classes held at students' base high school. Competition for admission is steep: the school can hold 80 students; applications number 150 yearly. The school earned recognition as one of the top 100 high schools in the nation, in the "small school" category, by US News and World Report in an unsolicited evaluation. Students in the Academy receive the advantage of hands-on experiential learning in a low student-to-teacher ratio. Internships are arranged in both the private and public sector. The monthly Board of Directors meeting, open to the public, occurs on the 2nd Wednesday of the month, 2:30 p.m. It is noted on the back of this agenda.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: It was moved and passed that the minutes from the March 2010 General Meeting are accepted as published. There was no correspondence report in Secretary's absence.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The Treasurer, Carl Simpson, reported the balance as of April 14, 2010 as \$1234.75. The Audit Committee Chair, Greg Schumukal, read the report finding the Treasurer's records to be in order.

COUNTY STAFF:

Sgt. Chris Evan, Sheriff's Office reminded the delegation to lock cars, don't leave expensive items in plain sight in cars, and add a whistle to one's key chain as a means to attract attention in case of an emergency. He additionally warned everyone of lottery and other scams appearing in e-mail boxes.

Jenette Collins, Development Services, was absent.

Chuck Dixon, Director, Planning & Growth Management, CCSD, announced that school rezoning was underway, land had been purchased in Beverly Hills for future expansion, a new bond was issued as a funding source. The possibility of the School District getting the Historic Hernando School building back from the Historical Society was discussed briefly. Also raised as a matter of concern was a second egress from the Educational Path complex.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Membership: *Chair Bob Geffken* reported his continuing contacts with local homeowners associations.

Sunshine Committee: *Chair Lorrie Volda* reported that cards were sent to Jose Masaoy and Bob Dougherty.

Education Committee: *Bob Dougherty* – absent

Environment and Natural Resources: *Chair Gus Kraye* filed a committee report. In his verbal presentation to the delegates he membership to attend the next Committee meeting on Friday, April 30. HB 1325, introduced by Rep. Ron Schultz, was intended to protect sea grass beds along the Citrus County coastline, and act as a prohibition to off-shore oil drilling. It died in committee on March 25. A ruling by the Supreme Court leaves uncertain which waterways are protected by the Clean Waters Act, thus allowing polluters to dump into waters that were previously protected. The Court's ruling eliminated the word "navigable" from the language of the law.

Governance Committees: *Chair Tom Mize - absent.* Christopher Lloyd was asked to report on recent BoCC and Economic Development Committee activity. He reported that the EDC, in its new format, applied for and received membership in the "Tampa Bay Partnership," a regional corporate expansion & relocation organization. In BoCC business, Richard Wesch, former County Administrator fired by the previous Board for, among other things, inept communication, was expected to be hired by the current group of Commissioners as County Attorney, to replace retiring Robert Battista.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Members were updated on the plans for the upcoming Public Forum on Home Town Democracy to be held on Saturday, May 8, and were encouraged to take flyers for their groups.

NEW BUSINESS: Earth Day is Sunday, April 18, Crystal River Buffer Preserve. Citrus County Council will share a booth with Save the Manatee. Delegates were requested to be present for an hour to help staff the booth.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 A.M.

Submitted,

Secretary