

February 16, 2009 HCCA Membership Meeting Minutes

Pledge

Bunny gave the Treasurer's report. Current balance is \$564.

We paid \$15. for membership renewal in Broward Coalition.

3 members paid 20./ea dues for deposit and will be added to the balance.

Mel asked Bunny to announce who owes dues

Mel introduced the agenda. He will pick out important items first and will go through them.

item 9. Block 55

Terry from Hollywood Lakes had good news to report. He attended mtg w/City Hall, Dept of Planning, CRA Director, Neil Fritz, downtown business, and Consultant Planner Mr. Zyscovitch. Mr. Zyscovitch's plan for Young's Circle, the Z-plan, will be ready as early as March 10. Terry feels that validates his position to delay a vote on Block 55 until the Z-plan is finished since it is not that far away. P&Z review may happen before then. CRA has been lobbying hard and may have votes for continuance which Hollywood Lakes wants. Developer wants Block 55 proposed PD zoning to pass on first reading. Terry feels first reading approval is never re-visited so need for continuance to consider Z-Plan in Block 55 decision. Petition sent out previously by Cynthia was tweaked by Terry and recirculated. He appreciated HCCA letter of support. Will be sending another round of e-mails before Weds Commission meeting to consider block 55. Says developer has not altered his plans any in terms of height so may be confident about the number of votes for approval on first reading. Wants any that can come and speak at quasi-judicial Commission meeting on Weds to speak. Mel mentioned that wording of quasi-judicial procedure says if not an expert then citizen comment doesn't hold weight. He suggested we all wear red to show we want a "NO" vote on hearing developer plan./ Vote for continuance to hear item after Z-Plan finished.

item 3 Budget talks Mel said the City will be having a series of budget talks/"retreats" but is not planning on having citizen input. He stated that parts of the administration is "top heavy" in terms of management. He asked if the HCCA wants to ask for citizen participation.

Terry recalled that there used to be a citizen budget committee and Mel said Comm Blattner sunsetted committee due to citizens at odds with some Commissioners and the business climate was different. Charlotte stated that if Commissioners participate then must be open to the public. Mel said that when public attends is not allowed to give input. Mel also would like to have union reps there. Terry said may not have committee formed for the upcoming budget and we may ask to speak at retreat but he doubts we will be able. He said we should request to have a hearing between Commissioner budget retreats.

Bunny said what if we have a citizen budget meeting. Charlotte said we could bring the information from the Commissioner retreat to the citizens. Mel said last retreat the participants talked amongst themselves at a table and citizens had to sit on a barstool. He suggested that we ask the Commission to have microphones so the retreat can be heard, seating for the public, broadcast on public access, and also Charlotte wants one hearing after each retreat session, for example, between the first and 2nd retreat. Motioned, 2nd and voted unanimously

item 6. Broward County Report detailing costs of services offered by Broward cities and Hollywood is ranked among the top in most categories. Bill asked is there any way to bill CRA for police presence at downtown and beach activities? Fire station on S. Ocean drive is at a standstill due to CRA wants to use tif/CRA funds but county doesn't want that. They will allow CRA to pay to refurbish existing fire station. Why do the social services and high call volume exist in some areas? This is a tax on our City services and costly, said Mike from Royal Poinciana. Charlotte feels like hotel owners are paying kickbacks so hotels won't be closed. North Central said prostitutes are underage and the criminal activity should be considered human

trafficking.

Mel asked what is the role of our Civic associations in this situation. Mike of Royal Poinciana disagreed with Charlotte and feels Joel Cantor and Chief Wagner are trying to find a legal way to end the problem. He will report back from Joel and the Chief about the obstacles.

David mentioned fines might be levied. Royal Poinciana said social services don't pay property tax. Maria mentioned that is similar to the rentals in Highland Gardens where years of criminal activity occurs and its not stopped. David said on long term rentals the City can fine owners. Maria said hotels used long term by criminals on day to day basis as part of their business plan so the same people are long term tenants there.

item 1. Mel said Sean Atkinson found out Jay Epstein has 100,000 in the Planning Dept. funds for trees and Mel asked that we propose the money be divided fairly among the communities. Trees from Charnow Park ended up alongside the Golf Course in The Lakes . Beach said trees for 3000. replaced by Greg Tourek with trees for 35,000. around Charnow park garage and he said this is a problem. Mel said City went to nurseries to get quality trees and spent 35,000. and nursed the trees properly. Beach representative is concerned that the trees will be taken by the City again. Terry said 100k should be divided equitably among 6 Districts and do we have representation from citizenry in this process. Mel has talked to 2 commissioners about this already.

item 2. Mel asked who would like to go to the Feb 17th meeting regarding phase 2 of the South Florida East Coast Corridor (re: future mass transit). The meeting will be held 6-8pm 1770 Monroe at Performing Arts Center.

item 4. Mel said wording regarding citizen testimony is that citizens are not experts and that Commissioners are instructed that citizen testimony is not relevant. David said need ACLU. Charlotte referred "Institute for Justice". Terry said supreme court issue on land use. Mel asked Charlotte to ask any legal contacts for advice and report back.

item 5. Should we continue foreclosure seminars at church level. We had 5 seminars and helped 100 people. Mel asked for help contacting churches. David said he included churches on e-mails about prior seminars and got no reply. Mel requested church contacts be sent to him going forward.

item 7. Sand By-Pass project. Sue Gunzberger will be here at the next meeting and can answer questions about County issues. Beach rep. thinks City should sue Army Corps of Engineers for Sand By-Pass. Mel said do we want to write a letter for City Attorney to sue Federal/Army Corps of Engineers?

item 8. Airport Expansion. Terry asked do we have member organizations that are affected by the airport expansion? Bill thinks Airport Expansion is a done deal. Maybe we could ask that proposed runway be put on North side..a study was done. David suggested that we tell Oak Ridge/ Maple Ridge area that Sue Gunzberger will be here in March. Sean suggests that we support those residents to get them to join us. Charlotte said March is too late due to decision is to be made Weds. North Central said since they aren't members we should not support the City spending money to defend against airport expansion. North Beach does not want a South Runway expansion. Steve Welsh of North Beach was in HCCA and is still fighting this expansion.

Motion to write a letter to Commission that we re-iterate that we want our long term position to be upheld that we oppose South Runway because of noise and damage to 15 acres of wetlands. 2nded. Vote for with 3 opposed and 12 for. Mike of Royal Poinciana said website shows Federal Hwy under a tunnel in South Runway plan.

item 10. (continued item 11 from January) Charter Review Terry said referendum could be done

by petition to take review Committee recommendations. Only 8% of registered voters needed instead of 15%. Mel said need to take these things back to associations and get input. David Mach said the way to make changes is to change Commissioners. Helen Chervin said was disheartening that recommendations of Charter review mtg on the beach was not heard by Commission. Terry said there were 11 or 12 articles including how City disposes of City Land. Terry will bring back recommendations from Charter Review Board before it sunsets in November. Mel said we will discuss then.

item 12. Civilian Patrol Program. Mr Carver asked to get participation from members of associations to drive patrol car in the day during the week. Need to go to citizens police academy and pass background and driver record check. Terry and North Beach rep interested.

Royal Poinciana forming again. Mel asked does anyone want to go to March 10th meeting to show support of HCCA?

Free parking.. need place to go for free parking. Free Parking meeting February 25th. Need ideas How to get people to patronize businesses. Maria suggested using water bill for parking pass. also free ads to businesses on public access station and also promotional items on dais and on water bills.

9pm Meeting adjourned.