

Minutes from Hollywood Council of Civic Associations (HCCA) March 16 Membership Meeting

7pm Pledge of Allegiance

Special Guest Broward County Commissioner Sue Gunzburger

SAND BY-PASS

Comm Gunzburger said our beaches are important economic generators due to tourism. 100 million dollar re-nourishment was done 3 years ago. And today there is no beach at The Alexander. The Westin Diplomat is on a "hot spot" where sand drifts N to S. However, the jetties that were put out changes the flow of sand from S to N where it lands in front of Point of Americas in Fort Lauderdale. They are opposed to sand by-pass. 2 fellow County Commissioners and City of Fort Lauderdale are opposed to sand by-pass so Comm Gunzburger said to keep up the pressure on the County Commission. She wanted us to write and mention the need to support beach business and hard economic times. Comm Gunzburger said she believes 7 other Commissioners may vote yes. She also said she doesn't want to abandon this project due to lots of money already invested in this project.

Cynthia mentioned sending in the form which is published in The Hawk newsletter to the Broward County Commissioners. Comm Gunzburger prefers us to send a post card or an e-mail which is more personalized.

BUDGET IN TALLAHASSEE

5 billion dollar shortfall in state budget.

Broward County needs to cut 140 million. The County already cut 90 million last year. Broward County millage rate was also reduced. Broward County tried to roll back taxes every year but this year if they do it will actually roll up. She said there is no will to roll-up on part of the Commissioners.

Comm gunzburger said BSO gets 50 cents of every tax dollar. She asked for e-mails suggesting places where County funding should be cut.

Unfunded mandates are those handed down by the state or federal governments to Broward County. 40 million goes to para-transit, money to court costs and jails. they are seeking grant money to cover equipment expenses like cars, radios, etc. Bus benches already approved and most are in our area: St Rd 7 and Hollywood Blvd, uS1 and Moffett, US1 and Polk, N 24th Ave and Polk, US1 and Johnson, US1 and Van Buren, St Rd 7 and Washington judge decided County may give funding to a Courthouse Parking Garage. Money still needed to fix up courthouse.

Broward County State sales tax revenue is down due to spending is down. Cultural events may be dropped even though Comm Gunzburger supports them due to budget restrictions.

Comm Gunzburger said we are a donor county and give back more money to Tallahassee and Washington D.C than we get back.

FAA MONEY FOR AIRPORT

South Runway Expansion proposal was voted on a year ago. 2-1, 3 people voted against expansion. The neighborhood South is 65 DNL(?). To qualify for Federal Aid it needs to be up to 60 DNL. Comm Gunzburger says South Runway will affect Westlake and John U Lloyd State Park by disturbing the peace and tranquility with noise.

Q&A

Royal Poinciana said they are against social service agencies in their neighborhood which they say brings an overflow of vagrants into their neighborhood and downtown.

Comm Gunzburger said that Broward County only gives funding to Broward Coalition. She said the County would not support The Starting Place.

United Neighbors Andre Brown said what about park at 24th and Monroe and that Highland Gardens neighborhood needs a park with basketball and fields for kids to play sports. Comm

Gunzburger said City asked for land that the County owned at 24th and Monroe and that City will own and manage park. She mentioned Holland Park at the end of Johnson Street as an example of a small park which benefits the community. Len M. from Hollywood Lakes said a pocket park in his area has lots of use even the day after it opened. Andre said he wanted a park like Jefferson Park in Hollywood Lakes. Len said it took a lot of work to get the playground equipment there. Comm Gunzburger said that municipalities and the County lose money on parks and libraries but they are important. She also mentioned for those who need to cancel their internet service to save money could go to the library to use one of the many new computers. Comm Gunzburger said she is at her office at Hollywood Library 2600 Hollywood on Weds. and Friday by appointment.

Zyscovitch Plan for Downtown Hollywood discussed.

Floor Area Ratio (FAR) used to calculate size of buildings instead of density. Elimination of PD (planned development) suggested. Plan addresses zoning and parking. Z-Plan calls for elimination of trees and parking in downtown area to create a mall like environment where businesses can be seen from across the street. Laid out undeveloped area into developed or parking.

Mel suggested we go to Planning and Zoning meeting concerning Block 55.

Cynthia Eason Greene was voted as recipient of Chuck Vollman Award

Comm Gunzburger counted the votes and we took a group picture

Tree Fund

Jay Epstein receives money from developers for trees. Mel drafted a letter asking for direction for disbursement of tree funds.

- 1.-Each recognized civic association submit request of their priority areas, photo, reason
- 2.-Deadline for submission
- 3.-Submittals to tree coalition or HCCA
- 4.-Committee/Jury decides based on pre-set criteria (Greg Tourik and Jay Epstein should be on committee and someone from the Housing Department)

Comm Gunzburger suggested that criteria be established first and the civic associations submit based on pre-established criteria. Mel made a motion to re-write his letter to include Comm Gunzburger's suggestion and send to Mayor and Commissioners. 2nd and agreed.

Budget Retreat

City will have a 17 million dollar shortfall.

Mel said citizens will need to concede increase in fire rate, mil rate, cap on wages, reduction of wages, furlough people. Fixed costs are not budging. Need to look at expenses. Len M. from Hollywood Lakes said he has been doing budgets for 25 years and believes that public forums requested by HCCA will take away tools to negotiate budget terms. Mel wanted public participation. Maria asked if input from citizens like Mel and Len could be helpful and also inform public prior to finished budget so public would not be at the point where all is put on them at the end when budget is done.

Future of HCCA foreclosure workshops

Mel asked for help obtaining church halls for foreclosure workshop.

Len mentioned 211 and will get us a copy of brochure with services and contact person. Memorial Hospital Prevention programs give Community service also. Mel will ask Reggie Jordan to get literature on this.