



**Round Table of Volusia County Elected Officials
MEETING MINUTES
June 19, 2017**

CALL TO ORDER - 12 p.m.

The Dennis McGee Room of Daytona Beach International Airport, 700 Catalina Dr.,
Daytona Beach, Florida.

Those attending included the following Roundtable members: DeLand Mayor and Roundtable Chair Bob Apgar; Holly Hill Mayor and Roundtable Vice Chair John Penny; Daytona Beach Shores Mayor Harry Jennings; New Smyrna Beach Mayor James Hathaway; Ormond Beach Mayor Bill Partington; Lake Helen Mayor Buddy Snowden; Pierson Mayor James Sowell; Ponce Inlet Council Member Lois Paritsky; Oak Hill Mayor Douglas Gibson; DeBary Vice Mayor Lita Handy-Peters; Port Orange Mayor Don Burnette; Deltona Mayor John Masiarczyk; South Daytona Mayor Bill Hall; Orange City Vice Mayor Bill Crippen; Volusia County School Board Vice Chair Linda Cuthbert; and Volusia County Council Chair Ed Kelley.

Others attending included guest speakers James Dinneen, Volusia County Manager; George Recktenwald, Volusia County Deputy County Manager; Sheriff Mike Chitwood, Volusia County Sheriff; Dr. D. Kent Sharples, CEO Business Alliance President; Herb Hiller, St. Johns River to Sea Loop Alliance Co-Founder; Maggie Ardito, St. Johns River to Sea Loop Alliance President; Larry Bartlett, Volusia County Property Appraiser; Billie Wheeler, Volusia County Council Member, District 2; Heather Post, Volusia County Council Member, District 4; Jeaneen Witt, Ponce Inlet Town Manager; Kohn Evans, Oak Hill City Administrator; Joe Yarbrough, South Daytona City Manager; Ted MacLeod, Ormond Beach Assistant City Manager; Khalid Resheidat, New Smyrna Beach Assistant City Manager; Anna Hackett, New Smyrna Beach Public Information Officer; Dale Arrington, City Manager of Orange City; Jane Shang, Deltona City Manager; Alan Rosen, Port Orange Assistant City Manager; Tom Russell, Volusia County School District Superintendent of Schools; Abby Johnson, St. Johns River Water Management District Intergovernmental Coordinator; Lois Bollenback, River to Sea Transportation Planning Organization Executive Director; Jim Cameron, Daytona Regional Chamber of Commerce Senior Vice President of Government Relations; Betty Holness, County Council Liaison; and Jeff Crumbley, Volusia County Community Information. Taking minutes was Debbie Kelley with the County Manager's Office.

WELCOME

Roundtable Chairman Bob Apgar welcomed those attending. He introduced Heather Post, Volusia County District 4 Council Member; Billie Wheeler, Volusia County District 2 Council Member; Larry Bartlett, Volusia County Property Appraiser; Mike Chitwood, Volusia County Sheriff; and Tom Russell, Volusia County School District Superintendent of Schools. After standing for the Pledge of Allegiance, everyone introduced themselves.

ST. JOHNS RIVER TO SEA LOOP ALLIANCE, HERB HILLER

Mr. Hiller introduced Maggie Ardito, President of the St. John River to Sea Loop Alliance, who was going to provide the presentation. Ms. Ardito provided information about the organization and what their goals were. The loop consists of a 260 mile paved bike trail that

runs from Titusville to DeBary to Palatka to St. Augustine, then back to Titusville. It traverses five counties; Brevard, Volusia, Putnam, St. Johns, and Flagler.

Most of the funding was provided by the Florida Department of Transportation. The loop should be looked at as a multi-million dollar gift from the State of Florida to Volusia County. It was selected over all the trails in Florida for state funding in 2016. Over half of the loop is located within Volusia County.

Trails are good for everyone in the county. They boost the economy and spur investment, improve property values and attract talented workers, and increase tourist revenue. People that frequent the trails are healthier and more productive. Such physical exercise can help reduce health care costs.

The Alliance was formed soon after the decision to fund the loop. It is a 501c3 nonprofit organization designed to support, promote, enhance and protect the loop; along with fostering locally resourceful trail orientated development around the loop. The Alliance partners and collaborates with dozens of public and private organizations; such as counties, municipalities and state organizations.

The Alliance is planning a three day summit in October with the purpose of raising awareness about the loop and the Alliance; along with celebrating all the good things that can be seen around the trails. Ms. Ardito asked everyone to help spread the word and connect with people, to help plan and promote a successful summit. One of the organizations goals is to raise awareness of the trail and loop.

Mr. Hiller compared the trails to the game of soccer, saying it costs less to build and maintain soccer fields than it does other types of sports fields. Soccer is an excellent form of physical fitness for both men and women. The sport has a global context, in which teams compete all around the world. Golf is an American standard, but the country is losing its robust enrollment in golfing activities compared to what it used to have. Currently, new home buyers are increasingly looking for nearby trails as an amenity when purchasing a home.

REMARKS BY SHERIFF MIKE CHITWOOD, VOLUSIA COUNTY SHERIFF

The Sheriff's Department has put into place three themes: transparency, proactive crime fighting, and community building. The transparency section includes the newly developed CompStat (Computerized Statistical Analysis of Crime) which is a high-tech crime-fighting program designed to help identify and combat crime trends within the county. The program was established in Deltona first, because it is the largest city in the county. The Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) is conducting a study of five years of the Sheriff's Office use of force data, along with the training, culture, policies and procedures. The group will release a report at the end of the year. It will be a blueprint for policing in the future in regards to use of force. The department will be using a new system called NC4. It is a real time crime center software program. Every police department within the county will have access to it. It is designed to tie together all of the technology that law enforcement has; such as tag readers, traffic cameras, store videos, home owner videos and every database imaginable.

Currently, the department is down forty-four deputies. The department is working with the Human Resources Division and should have most of the positions filled by Christmas. To save money, they will be contracting with GS4 Secure Solutions USA to provide security at the County courthouses. The company provides private security to twenty-five Courthouses

throughout the state. By contracting with GS4, it will free up eleven deputies that can be put back into the court system. By doing this, it will save approximately \$250,000 in the first year. The department will eventually use GS4 security officers to handle other services, such as extraditions and prisoner transport.

In regards to proactive crime fighting, the department received a grant from the State of Florida to expand the juvenile ankle monitoring program. Before a juvenile goes into secure custody, they go before a judge and an entire program is put in place for them. Areas of concern that are reviewed include anger management issues, drug problems, if they have truancy problems, and what their curfew is. The department works closely with the School Superintendent to devise a plan. In Daytona Beach, the juvenile is given a cell phone that is used to track them. Everything they do on the cell phone is monitored by the Sheriff's Department. On the west side of the county, the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) still uses ankle monitors. When juveniles go through the program, 62% of them do not reoffend again within the first year. A majority of these young people cannot read. The department has many programs to help such children. The programs are designed towards improving literacy. Some of the programs are done with the help of the School Board. The Sheriff's Department and the School Board are working together this summer by providing a summer camp in Deltona for thirty-five underprivileged children. The county helped by providing some funding for the program. Community partnership is very important so the department is very involved with the Boys & Girls Clubs.

The Sheriff and deputies are out in the community trying to make an impact and leverage all their resources with the cities and adjoining counties. There are individuals coming into Volusia County from Flagler and Seminole counties to raid our county and then they go back to their residential counties. Deltona will be adding more tag readers and DeBary is discussing purchasing some. There have been town hall meetings in Port Orange, Pierson, and Deltona and there are some scheduled for DeBary and Oak Hill. The Sheriff's Office will be offering a Citizen's Police Academy in the fall and will be starting an Explorer Program in Deltona. There has been some restructuring within the organization. A brief discussion with roundtable members followed.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION ON CITIES TRANSPORTATION/INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS:

CEO Business Alliance Involvement, Kent Sharples

Mr. Sharples thanked all the cities for being very proactive on economic development. There has been phenomenal successes in the last year. Heavy traffic is a good problem for economics. Some time ago, the city mayors approached the CEO Business Alliance asking for their support of a survey. The survey would be designed to find out what the potential impact might be for a potential local options sales tax referendum that was designed to help fund infrastructure related projects within the county. The Alliance worked with the city managers to identify a couple of companies, one in particular was Clear View Research. They have done many surveys for other communities throughout the state. The surveys are done very scientifically using random sampling techniques as well as geographic locations to be sure the entire community is tested. The survey would help define what the potential for a successful referendum might be. The Alliance worked with the city managers and signed a contract with Clear View Research. They provided a specific list of things that they will accomplish and the project is moving forward.

Report from Managers Meeting, Joe Yarbrough

Joe Yarbrough, South Daytona City Manager said Clear View Research has done sixteen surveys for various communities throughout the state. The survey would be designed to get

the pulse of the public. It would find out if the public supports a sales tax and if they did would it be for infrastructure or transportation only. It would also find out whether the public wanted a one-cent or half-cent sales tax. If the public supports it, then a decision needs to be made as to which election; either a primary or a general election. There is a need to find out what the public wants, where they want it and if the support is county wide. The survey will provide information as to where the strongest support is for a sales tax. No public funds will be used for the survey.

Discussion by Roundtable Members

Mayor Apgar felt the survey needed to be driven by the business community and the completed survey would dictate how to proceed. The survey will be funded 100% by the Alliance. The goal of the survey is to make sure all issues that have been expressed by the public will be included in it. The survey will dictate how the group will proceed. The hope is everyone will use the results of the survey to help drive this issue and that people will not become disenchanted. Discussion ensued among Mr. Sharples, Mr. Yarbrough, and roundtable members.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

Homelessness

Bill Hall, South Daytona Mayor provided an update on the First Step Shelter and said money had started coming in. Dr. Durham has approached several east side cities requesting funding and support.

Mr. Kelley, Volusia County Chair, said he is working on getting donations from the private sector, which included various individuals and corporations.

Transportation

George Recktenwald, Deputy County Manager, said Dale Arrington, City Manager of Orange City took the lead with the subcommittee to come up with a critical path. The subcommittee is ahead on the path with the CEO Alliance moving quickly. He discussed the *Critical Path for Sales Tax Referendum* handout that was provided. When the survey comes back, the subcommittee will engage the Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) and the cities. The City of Edgewater has taken the lead on developing a needs list. It is important to have an oversight committee that takes on this task and makes sure it gets done.

Dale Arrington said not to read more into the chart than what it is intended to represent. The starting and ending deadlines were the most important. The rest would be figured out once the results of the poll are received. The key points are that a funding formula and a list of projects are needed. Decisions cannot be made at the present time, more information is needed. Discussion ensued among roundtable members.

Water – No Report

Beach Driving - No Report until Further Notice

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A lady from the audience discussed concerns about traffic accidents that were constantly happening due to the increase in traffic. She stated that many businesses do not have signs and address numbers that are large enough to be read from the roadways.

Jim Cameron, Daytona Regional Chamber of Commerce Senior Vice President of Government Relations commended the Roundtable members on homelessness and

transportation issues. He reminded everyone of the Chamber of Commerce Eggs and Issues event on July 13, 2017, that will be held at the LPGA International Golf Course in Daytona Beach.

Big John discussed homeless issues and was glad the CEO Business Alliance was going to pay for the transportation survey. He had concerns about how much each municipality would receive from the proposed gas tax.

MEMBER COMMENTS

Mayor Apgar briefly discussed apologizing to many of the elected members of the Roundtable while attending the League of Cities Dinner. He apologized for getting ahead of the transportation subcommittee and city managers on the transportation and gas sales tax issues. When he asked members of the business community to get involved, they were willing and started moving quickly on the matter.

Lois Paritsky, Ponce Inlet Council Member said the city was preparing an ordinance pertaining to animal cruelty. She asked the County and each municipality to adopt a similar ordinance.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next Elected Officials Roundtable meeting will be held on August 14, 2017.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 1:09 pm.