



## **Roundtable of Volusia County Elected Officials MEETING MINUTES October 14, 2019**

### **CALL TO ORDER - 12 p.m.**

The Dennis McGee Room of Daytona Beach International Airport (DBIA), 700 Catalina Drive, Daytona Beach, Florida.

Those attending included the following Roundtable members: Roundtable Chair and DeLand Mayor Bob Apgar; Volusia County Council Vice-Chair Fred Lowry representing Volusia County Council Chair Ed Kelley; Daytona Beach Vice-Mayor Ruth Trager representing Mayor Derrick Henry; Daytona Beach Shores Mayor Nancy Miller; DeBary Mayor Karen Chasez; Deltona Mayor Heidi Herzberg; Edgewater Mayor Mike Thomas; Holly Hill Mayor Chris Via; Lake Helen Mayor Daisy Raisler; New Smyrna Beach Mayor Russ Owen; Oak Hill Mayor Douglas Gibson; Orange City Mayor Gary Blair; Ormond Beach Mayor Bill Partington; Pierson Town Council Chairman Sam Bennett; Ponce Inlet City Council Member Lois Paritsky; Port Orange Mayor Don Burnette; and South Daytona Mayor Bill Hall.

Others attending included Carmen Rosamonda, DeBary City Manager; Michael Pleus, DeLand City Manager; Jane Shang, Deltona City Manager; Glen Irby, Edgewater City Manager; Joe Forte, Holly Hill City Manager; Khalid Resheidat, New Smyrna Beach Interim City Manager; Joyce Shanahan, Ormond Beach City Manager; Jake Johansson, City Manager, Port Orange; Les Gillis, South Daytona City Manager; George Recktenwald, County Manager, Volusia County; Suzanne Konchan, Deputy County Manager, Volusia County; Jeaneen Witt, Town Manager, Town of Ponce Inlet; Michael Booker, City Manager, City of Daytona Beach Shores; Barbara Girtman, Volusia County Council Member, District 1; Billie Wheeler, Volusia County Council Member, District 2; Phyllis Butlien, DeBary City Council, Seat 4; Kevin Captain, Interim Director, Volusia County Community Information; Volusia County Brian Rothwell, Activity Project Manager, Volusia County; Tim Baylie, Volusia County Parks, Recreation and Culture Director; Joe Pozzo, Volusia County Public Protection Director; Howard Bailey, Volusia County Fire Chief; Channa Lloyd, Esquire, U.S. Census Bureau; Abby Johnson, St. Johns River Water Management District, Intergovernmental Coordinator; Jim Cameron, Senior Vice President of Government Relations, Daytona Regional Chamber of Commerce; Heather Shubirg, Executive Vice President, Team Volusia; Holly Smith, Communications Manager, Department of Health, Volusia County; Big John, Holly Hill, John Nicholson, Citizen; Mike Springer, Reporter, WFTV Channel 9; Jarleene Almenas, News Editor, Ormond Beach Observer; and Adrienne Barker, SCORE/Daytona Beach Regional Chamber/Halo Promo. Taking minutes was Darla Zakaluzny with the County Manager's Office.

### **WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS**

Roundtable Chairman Bob Apgar welcomed those attending. After standing for the Pledge of Allegiance, everyone in attendance introduced themselves.

### **CENSUS 2020 PRESENTATION**

Billie Wheeler, Volusia County Council Member, District 2, commended the City of Daytona Beach on their first Census meeting which was well attended.

Council Member Wheeler noted that she and Barbara Girtman are Co-chairs for the Volusia Complete Count Committee. She will represent the east side and Council Member Girtman will represent the west side of the county. Staff liaisons are Brian Rothwell and Pat Kuehn.

Highlights from Council Member Wheeler's presentation:

- The Census is the single most important issue that will affect local governments in 2020 and it's important that everyone work together to spread awareness and to urge completion of the Census forms. If Volusia County residents are undercounted, we will lose significant funds from the federal government for essential programs for the next 10 years.
- The U.S. Census will mail invitations to most households in mid-March and you are required to complete your form by April 1.
- All persons living in Volusia County at least 6 months of the year should complete their Census forms in Volusia County. This includes snowbirds and college students.
- In 2020, for the first time, people can complete their Census form online, by phone or by mail.
- Census forms are confidential for 72 years and cannot be shared with anyone, including welfare, immigration and law enforcement agencies.
- If you do not complete the forms, you will have the Census knocking on your door.
- The federal government will use data to determine the number of seats each state has in the U.S. House of Representatives and establish state legislative districts.
- Data will affect how more than \$675 billion in federal funds will be distributed. These funds are for schools, hospitals, roads, bridges, affordable housing programs, disaster assistance, transportation, and much more.
- Accurate counts are essential for schools.
- Volusia County's response rate from 2010 was 74% or 494,593.
- The Complete Count Committee includes community leaders and volunteers from across the county.
- The goals of the Complete Count committee are to make sure everyone is counted once, only once, and in the right place; increase Volusia County's initial participation rate; and target hard to reach populations.
- Hard to reach populations include children under 5, renters, college students, low-income families, minorities, migrant workers and non-citizens.
- Challenges include distrust of government at all levels, fear among non-citizens, social media and misinformation, proliferation of junk mail, complex living arrangements and increasingly diverse and mobile population.
- CCC timeline: Fall 2019, lay the groundwork for a successful campaign and start participating in community events. January through April 1, 2020: initiate marketing campaigns by placing ads and sending direct mail to targeted populations, such as renters.
- Utilize [Volusia.org/Census](http://Volusia.org/Census). Numerous forms and other information can be found here.
- Cities can help by forming a Complete Count Committee, develop a web page, send messages in utility billings, distribute flyers, use of electronic signs, speaking at community meetings.
- The County can help by providing graphics, information, forms, flyers, etc.
- The U.S. Census Bureau will hire 500,000 people to work in temporary jobs. The pay is \$16 per hour. Apply at [2020census.gov/jobs](http://2020census.gov/jobs).

Council Member Wheeler stated that Volusia County has set aside \$100,000 for its marketing campaign. Also, counties that have more than 500,000 people get in a higher bracket for funding.

Council Member Girtman added that the U.S. Census was used as an identifier for birth certificate records for those people impacted by the hurricanes. Using the data obtained from the Census helped those people rebuild their lives. She reiterated how important it was to share that point with people in our area.

Mayor Owen questioned if we could pull our own data. Council Member Girtman replied yes as the information is reported by census tract.

Mayor Apgar requested that Mr. Rothwell send the presentation to everyone. He stated that the Census is important in so many different ways and we need to do everything we can to get the forms completed by everyone. Mayor Apgar stated that everyone needs to work together and each city needs to develop their own Complete Count Committee.

Council Member Wheeler noted in defense of Daytona Beach Shores, there are a lot of snowbirds. She encouraged those persons who are living in Daytona Beach Shores six months of the year to complete the form in Daytona Beach Shores.

## **TRAILS UPDATE**

Mayor Apgar introduced Tim Baylie, Volusia County Parks, Recreation and Culture Director. Mr. Baylie provided an update on Volusia County trails. Highlights included:

### How to pay for trail construction

- SUN Trail / FDOT - \$25 million per year on average through new vehicle registration fees
  - Office of Greenways and Trails
    - 1/3 to fund the development of the Coast to Coast Trail
    - 1/3 to fund the development of the St. Johns River to Sea Loop
    - 1/3 to fund other trails on the Office of Greenways and Trails Priority Trail Network
- SUN Trail can fund design, acquisition of right-of-way, and construction. No matching funds and no sunset
- SUN Trail can also fund re-surfacing of a trail
- SUN Trail will not fund trail amenities to include restrooms, parking, wayfinding signage, maps, water fountains, etc.
- Eminent Domain
  - Currently, SUN Trail will not include in 5-year work plan
- Maintenance contract

### Trail maintenance costs

- Establish level of service
  - Mowing – 20 times per year rural and 32 time per year urban
  - Blowing off trail – 1 to 2 times per week
  - Trash collection – 1 to 2 times per week
  - All other services are on an as needed basis (tree trimming, pavement repairs, vandalism repairs, etc.)
- \$3,900 per year per mile on average
  - Mowing - \$74.76 per cut per mile on average

## Roundtable of the Volusia County Elected Officials – October 14, 2019

- Blowing off a trail - \$10.75 per mile on average
- Trash collection - \$6.30 per can on average
- Lower your maintenance costs in the design/construction phase
  - Proper root raking – trees that die after construction will impact your operating costs
  - Minimum of 1-1/4 asphalt thickness with a 6-inch limestone base
  - Clear a 32 feet wide path for a 12-foot wide trail – this will prevent tree growth from damaging the trail down the road
  - Contractor should remove all dead or dying trees before project acceptance

### How to pay for trail maintenance costs

- “Trails are the most desired community amenity that homeowners seek when building a home” – National Association of Home Builders 2008
- Various studies indicate property values increase 3% to 5% when near a trail, which in turn boosts the amount of property taxes collected

### Property values – by the numbers

- Taxable value of residential property within 1,000 feet of Volusia County’s existing paved trail system
- Increase in residential property value attributable to proximity to trail system (4%)
- General fund millage rate is \$5.5900 per thousand dollars of taxable value
- Total incremental tax benefit to Volusia County
- Total incremental economic value to residential property owner

### Economic impact

- Trail users spend approximately \$20 per visit
- Evaluate by looking at incremental growth in visitors to your community because of your trails
- Evaluate visitors already coming to your community but extend their stay
- Evaluate local resident buying goods or services to use the trail

### Trail signage

- Trail wayfinding
  - Many details had to be coordinated with FDOT to comply with federal standards
  - Icons, duration of travel and mode of travel, art work, sign material, height, post material, powder coating, color palette, sign thickness, fasteners, etc.
- Sign locations and content
  - Sign content and sign location at each installation point is depicted on the tables and maps
  - Most wayfinding signs are double sided to inform users traveling in opposite directions
- Trail head map
  - Coast to Coast and the SJR2C Loop logos are both represented
  - Local entity’s logo will be represented on the ribbon below the map
  - Two posts with a track on either side of the map will allow maps to be updated and re-installed
  - Maps will also be two sided

### Local and regional maps

- Trail mile markers and emergency information
- Volusia County trails mobile application

Mr. Baylie noted that in regards to trail wayfinding, the County was awarded a grant in the amount of \$150,000 from the River to Sea TPO. This grant had to be approved by FDOT. Once the entire trail is completed it will be 260 miles in length.

Mr. Baylie described the County's trail app and provided two iPads for the elected officials and managers to use during the meeting so they can get an idea of how it works. Mr. Baylie noted that the trail welcome center is located at DeBary Hall. Also, he showed a book on trails that a friend of his found in Germany and when you open the book, it goes to information about the Volusia County trails.

Mayor Blair requested a copy of trails presentation. Copies will be emailed to everyone.

Mayor Partington asked how someone would find out which of their trails would qualify for funding. Mr. Baylie responded that in order for any city or county to be eligible to receive SUN Trail funding their proposed trail alignment must be included in the State's priority trail network. If their trail is not in the network, then he might be able to help them through the process of getting their proposed trail in the network.

Mayor Partington stated that he agreed with a 4% increase on the tax base as hundreds of people are enjoying the outdoors.

Mayor Chalez noted that DeBary had all three highlighted trails. She noted that trails are required to be included in new subdivisions as part of the development order.

### **CENSUS 2020 PRESENTATION (Continued)**

Mayor Apgar introduced Channa Lloyd, U.S. Census Partnership Specialist.

Ms. Lloyd provided an update on the 2020 Census:

- Local governments help gather the information by setting up Census Count Committees. These committees are set up at the local, state, and federal levels.
- Important to get the counts and that they be accurate as \$675 billion will be distributed to local governments and other agencies.
- People will be able to fill out their Census information via a smartphone, lap top or telephone. There will be an 800 number available for people to call.
- Complete Count Committees can help determine what information is needed, there are various forms that can be provided to the general public and using them will help get the word out that the Census is important.
- The Census will also go to prisons to help administrations complete the forms for inmates.
- The Census cannot share any information with local governments, law enforcement, etc. The information is safe and confidential.
- Numbers are reported on a Census tract and there will be no requests for social security numbers, bank pin numbers, etc.
- Mailers will go out the second week in March 2020.

Council Member Girtman asked if there will be a way for the cities to track information. Ms. Lloyd replied yes, the information will be found on Census Roam.

### **SMART GROWTH AND FIRE SERVICES UPDATE**

Mayor Apgar stated that at the last meeting there was discussion about smart growth and fire services and the managers were asked to discuss and provide their thoughts on what we should do. He asked Mr. Pleus to provide the update on the managers meeting.

Mr. Pleus reported that in regards to smart growth, the managers discussed that each city have employed different strategies on how to handle smart growth and they did not want to confuse residents by coming up with a universal county wide campaign. The managers decided that the cities should be in charge of educating the residents on what strategies they are using. He provided an example of what the City of DeLand is doing and that Ormond Beach is doing things a little differently.

Mr. Pleus stated that there was seemed to be confusion with regards to fire services. He stated that the managers left the meeting feeling that there was a presentation on the fact that there is functional consolidation in the county and that they were not asked to do anything other than deliver the information to their elected officials as a board, but not necessarily to act on any further discussion on fire services consolidation.

Mr. Pleus went on to say that the managers were all satisfied with the functional consolidation that exists in the county and that they were to deliver the presentation for the elected officials.

Mr. Recktenwald added that they continue to work on that functional consolidation and they still need things that are out there, such as automatic aiding agreements, etc. He stated that they may have not been in the presentation, but a gap still exists and the managers would like to continue working with the chiefs group to close those gaps and they truly have automatic aides with the cities.

Council Member Paritisky noted that it was her understanding the elected officials were to go back to their councils to see whether they wished to update the study. She stated that the focus was perhaps on the recommendations that had not been implemented including the issue of consolidation of all of the municipalities in the county or perhaps by contract with each municipality.

Council Member Paritisky added that she wanted to bring back whether or not her Council would be interested in pursuing having an update on the study.

Mayor Apgar replied that it goes to Mr. Recktenwald's point in terms of mutual aid and other forms of the intergovernmental agreements that exist between cities and the County at this point. He added that his understanding from what Mr. Pleus reported was that everyone was satisfied with the way the system is working now and he did not see any drive towards a revamped system and spending money on another tri-data type of report.

Council Member Paritisky questioned if that would mean that we are not interested in pursuing the cost to each municipality if they were interested in having an interlocal agreement or is that something that would be discussed separately from this discussion.

Mr. Pleus replied he did not get the sense that there were other cities that were interested in that conversation, but he could not speak for the elected officials as a group.

Mr. Forte stated that there is always an opportunity to work with another city or the county independently if they want to join certain services, consolidate, or do any other kind of contractual fire agreement. Any municipality has the right to work with another if they want to.

Mr. Forte went on to say that any presentation that the chief did that day was a good summary of the accomplishment that the previous studies have put out and the success that the fire chiefs have done and local governments accomplishing those tasks with the exception of the ultimate county wide consolidation. He stated that he does not see the county wide consolidation in the cards.

Mayor Apgar briefly discussed how DeLand, Deltona, Orange City and DeBary are entering into an agreement in terms of a technical response team. He encouraged everyone to work with your neighbors in ways that can provide the best level of service.

Council Member Paritsky expressed her thanks for the report.

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Big John, Holly Hill, stated that the beach is our number 1 trail, but there no signs on the beach. He encouraged that this be looked at as we do not want to overlook the beach. Mr. John reiterated his comments of last month that pertained to smart growth and that transportation was included in that topic. He referenced the LPGA subarea study which he felt was disgusting and the only other option would be another tax.

Mayor Apgar replied that Mr. John's comments from last month did not go unnoticed and it will be discussed next month.

Mr. John Nicholson, Daytona Beach, 413 North Grandview Ave., Daytona Beach, stated why he had been against the 1/2 cent sales tax and recommended proposing a 1% tax increase. He reiterated that funds need to be distributed fairly. Mr. Nicholson also suggested looking at a higher sales tax as other counties are at 7, 7-1/2 or 8.

Jim Cameron, Senior Vice President of Government Relations for the Daytona Regional Chamber of Commerce stated that the last two speakers spoke on items that are vital to Volusia county and the Daytona Beach Regional Chamber would be happy to work with the group on these items.

### **CLOSING COMMENTS**

Chairman Bennett, Town of Pierson, stated that this was a good meeting and Pierson hopes to have a larger participation in the 2020 Census. He stated that the Town will work with Council Member Wheeler and the County to get the word out.

Mayor Via, Holly Hill, apologized for being late and wanted to get his name on the record that he was in attendance.

Mayor Miller, Daytona Beach Shores, invited everyone to attend the dedication for their new Veterans Park on November 9<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. Congressman Michael Waltz will be the guest speaker. Mayor Miller noted that all branches of the military will be recognized at the dedication ceremony and the city will be designated as a Purple Heart Community.

Mayor Partington stated it does not make sense to ask for a 1% sales tax and encouraged everyone to talk about it with their councils to see what level of support there is. He added that the support from Ormond Beach may not be there.

Mayor Owen agreed with Mayor Partington's comments and added that the execution could have been better. If this is going to be looked at again, he definitely wants to have discussion with his Commission members.

Mayor Blair announced that there would be a dedication of a new playground in Orange City named in honor of the late Evelyn Robison who was the first African American to serve on the City Council. The event is scheduled for 4:30 pm and everyone was invited to attend.

Mayor Apgar recommended changing the meeting date of the next meeting as it falls on Veterans Day, November 11<sup>th</sup>. He proposed moving the meeting to November 18th. There was no opposition to the new meeting date.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.