



FEDERATION
OF
MANATEE COUNTY
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATIONS, INC.

APRIL NEWSLETTER

Next Meeting – **April 19, 2016 at 6:45 P.M.**

LOCATION – SYNOVUS BANK
2520 Manatee Avenue West, Bradenton, Florida
Conference/Meeting Room – Enter through side door on 26th Street side

Please mark your calendar and attend with a friend to show support for your community and quality of life.

AGENDA

- GUEST SPEAKER – Angelina “Angel” Colonneso, Clerk of Circuit Court & Comptroller
- Reports and requests for assistance by homeowners and items of interest
- Reading of Minutes and Treasurer’s Report
- Progress Report on Health Care Advisory Board – Sandy Marshall
- Updates on Actions Taken

WHAT HAPPENED TO CIVILITY?

Civility is defined as “formal politeness and courtesy in behavior, speech or polite remarks we use in formal conversations.”

As we become increasingly aware from media reporting there seems to be significant change in public reporting of aggressive and inflammatory action from all the political campaigns and their participants. This seems to have become an acceptable format of campaigning strategy. Is the position they seek really worth the vicious and demeaning rhetoric that spews unchecked across our airwaves? This personal behavior camouflages the real issues and hinders open and honest forums of discussion. These tactics seem to be to challenge, blame, name call, or bully the opposing parties to drive opinions and self-serving points across all fronts. We recognize both winning and losing remarks from all sides is a necessary part of our own internal decision making process. However, the fairness and cooperative campaigning we have heard in past electioneering seems to have been replaced by caustic and inflammatory remarks against opponents.

Several issues are skipped or swept under the carpet for fear of losing the decision or control. It seems that the political positioning, via campaigning and town hall meetings has eroded into negative verbal discourse, rather than information sharing and polled position discussions. How do you feel about this change in our political decision making process, how

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“Eternal Vigilance
is the price of
Liberty.”

would you respond? Will you ignore the process? Deny the process? Oppose the process? Refuse to participate?

Our recent history of Status Quo process seems to have been brushed aside, and a new approach has been adapted. This new approach to the campaign and information sharing related to individual decisions will bring about a change. One wonders if this change will foster success or poor choices based on what we consider as driving factors in casting our ballots.

The primary election for Manatee County on August 30, 2016 is certainly a place we can start but we must participate in this. Following is the election in November and yet another key opportunity to cast your vote.

Your decisions will be guided by information and opinions that you obtain from a wide variety of sources. Many of these sources are caught up in the current “bashing” campaign style we are being exposed too daily. Take the time to assess your own decision making, be mindful of the storylines being broadcasted by the opposition, and vote with a clear conscience.

COUNTY HEALTH CARE ADVISORY BOARD (HAB) UPDATE

A joint meeting of HAB was held with the County Commissioners on March 29, 2016 at the County Administration Building.

A presentation was made by the Michigan Consulting firm Health Management Associates followed by questions and answers by those present. County Administrator Ed Hunzeker confirmed that HAB will be responsible for developing a recommendation for funding a health care plan for the medically needy in our county and not the appointed county budget advisory board that closed in May 2015.

Everyone present was encouraged that Manatee County has finally begun to move ahead with a transparent health care plan by consolidating the present fractionalized health care resources in our county. It was apparent to everyone that healthcare costs are out of control locally as well as on the state and federal level; and that a cost efficient healthcare plan is desperately needed at this time.

I have provided a list of ideas and issues to the HAB staff for distribution to the HAB members and the consultant for their consideration that I have accumulated recently from the media, publications and individuals.

The next meeting of HAB is on April 27th from 5 to 7 p.m. at the County Administration Building and is open to the public. (ESM)

THE UNOFFICIAL MANATEE COUNTY WEBSITE

The “Our Manatee” website bills itself as the “Unofficial Manatee County website”. Not to be confused with the official county website, the ourmanatee.com website is supported by a group of non-partisan Manatee County residents who are interested in improving our county by influencing decisions that affect the quality of life of all residents. The website includes numerous articles about important topics such as impact fees, county growth, Long Bar Pointe, Mosaic, the school half-cent sales tax, Glazier-Gates Park and much more. The website also has links to important websites including schools, election Information, County GIS Server, Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and more.

The website may be found at <http://ourmanatee.com>. There is a companion Facebook page called Our Manatee (what else?). The email address is ourmanateecounty@gmail.com. The ourmanatee.com group accepts input from the community and will publish appropriate articles. If you would like one of their free “Our Manatee” bumper stickers, they are available upon request. (EG)

ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE BOARD ON BEHALF OF FMCCA

On April 4, 2016, the following letter was sent to the Manatee Board of County Commissioners:

RE: Resolution moving public comment on future issue to the end of the day

At our March 15, 2016 membership meeting of the FMCCA a motion was approved to send this letter to the County Commission.

The rationale for approval of this resolution was to free up more time for agenda business. It seems that non-agenda business such as proclamations, advisory board approval and other non-agenda items that consume time at the beginning of the meetings are not at issue in delaying the agenda business.

The unknown time for public comment on future items of concern from residents will reduce the opportunity for you as commissioners to hear from your constituents on matters they feel important.

It is suggested that public comment on future items be given a time certain of 30 minutes so that residents can plan on presenting their issues and concerns at a known time.

As an elected official it would seem important to listen to the residents who have elected you to that leadership position. The passing of this resolution seems to make the input from residents more difficult to present.

Please consider this request to provide a better way for both the commission and the public to share information.

Respectfully yours,

FEDERATION OF MANATEE COUNTY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATIONS, INC.

On April 4, 2016, the following letter was sent to the School District of Manatee County:

RE: Impact Fee Recommendation

Please consider this letter as our official welcoming to you as our newest Manatee County School Superintendent.

The Federation of Manatee County Community Associations (FMCCA) has a long history of supporting the effort to assist the district to provide the best possible education for all students and to provide and protect the quality of life in Manatee County. Our members have previously served on the budget and sales tax accountability committees for the district.

Enclosed is a copy of our March, 2016 monthly newsletter, please note on page two, a list of some of the county issues we have chosen to get involved with over the past 50 years. One of the more recent issues was our efforts requesting approval of new growth impact fees. It is of the utmost importance for the schools and taxpayers of Manatee County. We have long subscribed to the notion that new growth must pay its own way.

At our March 15, 2016 meeting, our membership approved a motion to provide a letter to yourself and the school board. We are not in support of the agreement made to decrease the impact fee charge to new development to 50%

At our March 15, 2016 meeting, our membership approved a motion to provide a letter to yourself and the school board. We are not in support of the agreement made to decrease the impact fee charge to new development to 50% of the recommended amount. We believe the full 100% amount suggested by the TischlerBise study is more realistic to support the present and short term future capital expenses. The cost to meet the recommended new school facilities and maintain the level of service required is extensive. We must meet the commitment to educate the number of new students who will be migrating to these approved new developments. This cost should be shared with new development through the assessment and collection of the full level of impact fees.

The bottom line is that the School District will require all the funding it can secure from every source in order to meet and improve the present level of service. The educational facility impact fees ordinance should not be linked in any way to any "future revenue source movements."

It is best to get what you can when you can. This is such an opportunity and the FMCCA is in full support of the immediate collection of 100% of the impact fee recommendation.

Please provide copies of this letter to each board member.

Respectfully yours,

FEDERATION OF MANATEE COUNTY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATIONS, INC.

SECRETARY'S CORNER

Below is a brief synopsis of our most recent guest speaker and serves as a courtesy to our members and those on our newsletter mailing unable to attend our meetings.

Presentation for "Community Paramedicine," a Manatee County sponsored Community Paramedic Program. Guest Speakers were James Crutchfield, District Chief, and Paul Diccico, Acting Deputy Chief.

This is a new type of community service offered to Manatee residents beginning in June 2016. Program funding will be under a AHCA grant of \$343,000. Services will be targeted to serving medically needy. There are five areas being targeted to assist people, Falls, Diabetes, Respiratory Problems/Congestive Heart Failure, Mental Health/Substance Abuse, and frequent 911 System Users. Program operations is geared to improve access to specific types of healthcare to those medically vulnerable, underinsured, need medical services resulting from falls; diabetic management, develop a case management service for frequent EMS users, resource assistance for mental health/substance abuse, provide proper treatment at the right time for congestive heart failure patients and chronic respiratory issues. (KLD)

MEETING DATES AND SPEAKERS

Come to our meetings. Be part of the solution, not the problem. Join the FMCCA. Here is the list of our 2016 scheduled meetings. Please mark your calendars accordingly.

February 16 – Home Health - Rob Coseco, Tidewell
March 15 – Public Safety - Jimmy Crutchfield & Paul Diccico
April 19 – Clerk of Circuit Court & Comptroller - Angelina “Angel” Colonnese
May 17 - TBA
September 20 – TBA
October 18 - TBA
November 15 – TBA