



FEDERATION
OF
MANATEE COUNTY
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATIONS, INC.

MARCH 2018 NEWSLETTER

NEW LOCATION – FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF BRADENTON
1306 Manatee Avenue West, Bradenton, Florida
(on corner of 13th St. & Manatee)
Meeting Room – Church Offices Building, enter using west back door

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

AGENDA

- GUEST SPEAKER – Corinne Tucker, Public Involvement Coordinator, Sarasota/Manatee Metropolitan Planning Organization
- Reports and requests for assistance by homeowners and items of interest
- Reading of Minutes and Treasurer's Report
- Updates on: Health Care Advisory Board; County Bike Trails; Impact Fees

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

CAN YOU RUN THE GOVERNMENT LIKE A BUSINESS?

What an interesting concept that is being heavily viewed at this time. In addition, there are consequential budgeting factors that will affect all government operations. Our political leaders are wrestling with and being heavily influenced by this dilemma. What are the right choices, which our elected officials should pursue; certainly, there are several perspectives and opinions.

Here is my current thinking on this critical matter. "People do not resist change as much as they resist being changed." The reality of the matter is that we are in a changing environment brought about by the economic reality of increased governmental cost. Now we are faced with increased monies needed for public and private use. It is a fact that society must reassess priorities in order to manage budgets.

When private enterprise is affected by this situation often downsizing, painful as it is, is quick and decisive in controlling the costs of rapid change. Our government however is much more complicated by the public sector and all the special interest groups that are involved in the decision-making process. This factor brings out the lobbyist and special interest groups in large volumes both in activity and money.

Does this activity change the decision-making process? In my opinion it very much does influence the question of your personal involvement in providing information to our leaders. At what point do voters draw the line and say "enough is enough" with cuts to programs. Current events certainly have brought attention to behaviors that has the public attention and response (me too, black lives matter, gun violence, foreign interference in our political processes).

Jim Kaiser
President

Ernest "Sandy" Marshall
1st Vice President

Glen Gibellina
2nd Vice President

Victor Coveduck
Treasurer

Kay Lynn Duncan
Secretary

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***"Eternal Vigilance
is the price
of Liberty."***

Unintended consequences also enter into the issue when one decision may in fact cause increase costs in other programs. Our leaders are faced when any decision impacts programs affecting our lives for years to come. We are faced with involving ourselves into providing information by which these decisions will be made under the better of circumstances. It is more important than ever that we provide input to our leaders through Phone Calls, Letters, E-mails, attend meetings such as the Federation or Commissioners, City Council and Town Hall meetings. We owe this to present and future generations who will have to live within the boundaries of these actions.

The Federation of Manatee County Community Associations is designed to focus on issues affecting home, condo and mobile home owners. This well-established group continues to send information and recommendations to our political leaders. Together we as a group of concerned citizens and through the FMCCA will test this concept of running our government like a business.

“Government is run by those who show up.”

Bring your ideas and questions to our next meeting. We look forward to your participation.

SECRETARY'S CORNER

Below is a brief synopsis of our guest speaker at the February 20, 2018 Federation Membership Meeting and serves as a courtesy to our members unable to attend our meetings.

Guest Speakers: David “Watchdog” Miner, Manatee County School Board Member, introduced Manatee County Educator of the Year, Nicholas Leduc, a 4th grade teacher at Braden River who spoke about his teaching role; and said passage of this tax will give teachers an extra 30 minutes per day with students and would allow school districts to offer jobs to teachers/administrators/support staff competitive salaries. Next, Linda Schaich spoke in opposition to the referendum with a bulleted handout giving reasons why voters should not vote for increase; election costs \$300 K; believes funds have been mishandled in the past; and tax reference is only for four years.

David Miner spoke to promote need for these funds to run our schools, identified the salary of Sarasota and Pinellas teachers make \$9,000 more annually than Manatee teachers. This is causing extreme exiting of Manatee teachers to Sarasota. Currently, Manatee is using 44 long-term subs for vacant positions, also losing school administrators; records show 276 teachers living in Manatee County drive daily to teach in Sarasota County. The millage approval will make Manatee County competitive for keeping and hiring teachers, bus drivers, support staff and administrators; teachers will be paid for working an extra 30 minutes with students per day and receive salary enhancements; lastly cited the 1 mil will cost less than \$1 per day to improve our schools. Questions/Answers followed.

Guest Bridget Mandell, of Bradenton addressed current legislation pertinent to schools and school funding in Florida. HB 7055 establishes Hope Scholarship for bullied students; and streamlines state vouchers scholarship program accountability; modifies funding for Hope Program, etc.; appropriates \$19 M of public tax dollars to not for profit charter schools, and bill needs only be voted on in senate to pass and all opposed should contact Bill Galvano. HB 7069, has passed and signed in June 2017 by Governor but is being challenged by impacted Florida school districts and may be headed to the FL Supreme Court to decide fate of law. (KLD)

CANDIDATES NEEDED

Robin DiSabatino recently announced that she has withdrawn her candidacy for Commissioner of District 4. Anyone who lives in that district and is interested in that position should check registration procedures on the Manatee County Supervisor of Elections website as soon as possible.

A copy of the FMCCA's March 1, 2018 letter to the Manatee County Board of County Commissioners follows.

RE: Developers Attempt to Cap Impact Fees at 90% instead of 100%

Dear Commissioners:

The FMCCA strenuously objects to the developers, through the Manatee-Sarasota Building Association, attempting to cap Manatee County Impact Fees at 90% instead of 100%, beginning April, 2018. FMCCA has long supported growth to pay its own way.

After substantial input from both the public and developers, the Commission wisely re-instated 100% County Impact Fees on December 3, 2015, after the real estate market crashed during the Great Recession.

It is disconcerting that after all the money spent by the County to hire a premier expert to prepare our present Impact Fee Schedule and the energy expended by our prior Commissioners, and the public, it is ludicrous that we have to go through this same debate again. All because it is being spuriously pursued by the developers.

It is clear that development and sales of homes in Florida Coastal Counties is booming. Impact fees have not slowed or stopped growth. To the contrary, such fees have stimulated growth and jobs in our area.

Florida tops the list for retirement destinations, Manatee and Sarasota county have been both recognized nationally and internationally, as being one of the best family friendly places to live, raise a family, and work.

No matter how hard the development community argues, it is obvious that growth must pay its way, for new and expanded necessary services, and expansion of infrastructure caused by growth. Our present residents and tax-payers should not have their present property taxes raised for any such indirect cost.

The argument that raising Impact Fees to 100% will cost an additional \$2,000.00 is invalid. When it is amortized at 4-1/2% interest, per annum, it would only cost \$10.00 a month for 30 years, to a buyer.

Manatee County cannot afford to reduce Impact Fees from 100% to 90%, when the county is scrambling to find new sources of funds to pay for present and future county services and infrastructure.

Therefore, the Federation respectfully requests this Commission to not be influenced by the threat of Impact Fee lawsuits by developers, and not cap such fees at 90% from 100%.

Respectfully submitted,
Federation of Manatee County Community Associations, Inc.

By: James Kaiser, President
By: Ernest "Sandy" Marshall, 1st Vice President

*"Never doubt that a small group of committed people can change the world.
Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."*

Margaret Mead, cultural anthropologist

SUN TRAIL UPDATE

Manatee County advertised for a new position, Mobility Coordinator, which will include bicycle/ pedestrian trail planning and grant applications. The application deadline ended on February 14th. Eight applications were received and five candidates will be or have been interviewed.

Don't forget to sign the on-line petition for this trail at: ourmanatee.com/Button.html. You don't have to live in Manatee County or even Florida to sign the petition. If you ever plan to visit here, this trail will be a beautiful and safe place to walk or ride your bicycle but we need signatures to make it happen. (EG)

IMPACT FEES

If the Board of Commissioners votes to cap impact fees at 90%, it will cost taxpayers more than ten-million-dollars over the next three years. Developers are charged impact fees for infrastructure that is necessitated by new development. If the county gives developers a 10% discount, that money comes out of the Manatee County budget. That means that the developers get to keep that \$10M and we don't have that money to spend on roads, libraries, parks, police cars, fire trucks, and many more things. If you think the developers should pay 100% for the infrastructure their developments require, email them as soon as possible. This item will be considered and voted on March 20th.

MEETING DATES AND SPEAKERS

Come to our meetings. Be a part of the solution, not the problem. Join the FMCCA. Here are the dates of our scheduled meetings for 2018.

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| January 16 – Rick Wells, Sheriff of Manatee County | September 18 – TBA |
| February 20 – David Miner, School Board Member | October 16 – TBA |
| March 20 – Corinne Tucker, Public Involvement Coordinator, MPO | November meeting moved to 12/04 |
| April 17 – TBA | |
| May 15 – TBA | |

NOTICE - OUR NEW FISCAL YEAR BEGAN ON JANUARY 1, 2018. IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP. We cannot continue doing what we do for you unless we have your financial support. Your dues payment will enable us to continue printing, copying and sending our monthly newsletter. If you have any changes to your address, telephone number or email, please notify a board member. If you wish to be removed from our mailing or email list, please notify Carole Atkins, atlaw20910@aol.com. Whether you are a current member or a new one, please complete the below form and send it with your fee.

Federation of Manatee County Community Associations, Inc. – APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP
(Please Print)

Date: _____ Type of Application: (Check One) Individual Homeowners Association Neighborhood Organization

Name of Association or Organization: _____ Number of Households _____

Name of Contact Person(s): _____ Phone: _____

Mailing Address: _____

E-mail Address: _____ Name of Alternate Contact: _____ Phone: _____

Federation Annual Dues are \$.50 (fifty cents) for each household. (Number of Households X \$.50 = Annual Dues.) Not to exceed \$100.00. Cost for independent or single membership is \$10.00. Please make your check payable to FMCCA and mail with this form to Victor I. Coveduck, Treasurer, 5203 Palmetto Point Drive, Palmetto, FL 34221.