



FEDERATION
OF
MANATEE COUNTY
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATIONS, INC.

MARCH NEWSLETTER

Next Meeting – March 21, 2017 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 – County Commissioner Stephen R. Jonsson, District Three
- Reports and requests for assistance by homeowners and items of interest
- Reading of Minutes and Treasurer’s Report
- County Bike Trails Update – Ed Goff
- Long Bar Pointe Update - Discussion
- Health Care Advisory Board Progress Report – Sandy Marshall

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGING

An appropriate thought from a Bob Dylan song; I especially liked the 3rd verse.

“Come senators, congressmen, please heed the call,
Don’t stand in the doorway, don’t block up the hall.
For he that gets hurt will be he who has stalled,
There’s a battle out-side and it’s raging
It’ll soon shake your windows and rattle your walls,
For the times they are a-changing.”

Members of Congress: (“Please heed this call”) how appropriately stated as our country prepares for the next session. The membership debates are lengthy, controversial even confrontational for the participants irrespective of their party affiliation or position of the matters at hand. How can we the citizens move forward through the “doorways of progress” if our elected officials continue to stall.

This is a highly critical question deserving a responsible answer. We the citizens must direct our elected officials towards action and activity, demand responsive engagement and drive

Jim Kaiser
President

Ernest “Sandy” Marshall
1st Vice President

Glen Gibellina
2nd Vice President

Victor Coveduck
Treasurer

Kay Lynn Duncan
Secretary

Carole Atkins
Newsletter Editor/
Website Coordinator

Dr. Richard Conard
Director

Ed Goff
Director

Ernest “Sandy” Marshall
Ex-Officio President

615 9th Street West
Bradenton, Florida
34205

Call for information:
941-746-2151

Website:
www.thefmcca.com

“Eternal Vigilance
is the price
of Liberty.”

solutions. The power of the vote is our battle cry and each of us must pull the levers of democracy by writing, calling and challenging the politicians to action. These are some of the direct activities we must engage in to make a difference. This action may seem inadequate, but the politicians “job one” is to keep their jobs, for we the citizens our “job one” is vote them in or vote them out, but vote. So citizens unite “rattle the windows and shake the halls” congressional members answer the calls, for the votes they are a-coming

The Federation continues to drive participation, provide information, and stay involved in local, state and national issues. Our meetings provide an opportunity to present issues that will be shared with our leaders. Now is the time to let us know your thoughts on local, state and national issues to help guide our activities and information to the decision makers. For the times they are a-changing.

This is a modified repeat of a President’s message edited by Bill Haag. We lost Bill to a medical issue last December and we miss his involvement and support of the Federation.

See you all at the meeting.

PRIVATE VS. PUBLIC NUISANCE

There are two major serious quality of life issues presently affecting and being confronted by local residents, businesses and Manatee public officials. First, is the recently adopted County and proposed local City noise ordinances. Second, the recent approval by the County of the change of zoning and expansion of phosphate mining in Manatee County within or bordering Lake Manatee Water Shed and nearby existing residents.

If a business chooses to locate and operate any kind of a business for profit in the unincorporated areas of Manatee County, or its cities, and creates or causes a nuisance to its neighbors, whether it be another business or residents, it can be stopped by court proceedings, if the public officials refuse to act to stop or control this nuisance.

“Nuisance” is commonly defined as an obnoxious or annoying person, thing, practice, or annoying to individuals or to the community. If the nuisance annoys an individual, it is considered a “private” nuisance. If it is obnoxious or annoying to the community, it is considered a “public” nuisance.

Local governmental officials have a duty to reasonable protect both other businesses and residents from either private or public nuisance while this requires balancing the rights of these two groups and the persons causing a nuisance, the health welfare and safety of the groups affected by a nuisance has to come first and the perpetrator of a nuisance rights, second.

A person’s rights to peace and tranquility and a good nights’ rest in their residence and protection of ones’ business, and the safety of clean air and potable water, should always come first, and the perpetrators rights second. Accordingly, any ordinances and approvals by our public officials above should contain protection, safeguards and include the rights of persons affected by a nuisance and the government agency, to recover their attorney fees and costs to prevent and control both private and public nuisances caused by noise or damage to our potable water and the air we breathe.

Presently, any resident or business near Mosaic or a local business affected by noise or water or air pollution nuisances should consider contacting legal counsel to file a nuisance suit against the perpetrator.

Also, any above present or proposed ordinances or approvals should be amended to provide recovery of costs to the above such nuisances. (ESM)

UPDATE ON MANATEE COUNTY SUN TRAIL

It has been determined that there will be two SUN Trails in Manatee County. Both will start near Willow along the Hillsborough-Manatee County line north of Lake Parish. One will run north of the lake heading toward Duette then turn southwest passing below the Lake Manatee Dam before heading south reaching the Sarasota-Manatee County line south of State Road 70.

The second trail will have the same starting point but will proceed south-west paralleling the railroad right-of-way through Parish to Ellenton and then to Palmetto. After crossing the Green Bridge it will turn west and proceed out to Anna Maria Island. From there it is expected that it will connect to Sarasota's Legacy Trail on Longboat Key.

More specific connecting points with adjacent counties will be discussed at the MPO-BPTAC Meeting on Monday, March 13th starting at 8:30 AM. That meeting is open to the public. On March 21st at 2 PM another meeting will be held at the Manatee County Public Safety Center, 2101 47th Terrace East, Bradenton - Training Rooms A & B. The SUN Trail is expected to be discussed. This meeting is also open to the public.

Anyone wishing to have input into the final route of these trails should attend both meetings. (EG)

SECRETARY'S CORNER

Below is a brief synopsis of our guest speaker at the February 21, 2017 Federation Membership Meeting and serves as a courtesy to our members unable to attend our meetings.

Guest Speaker: Travis Vengroff, owner of Robins Apartments of One Stop Housing

Travis and Harvey Vengroff (son and father) own "One Stop Housing" a business consisting of many properties that include various size apartments, duplexes, town-homes, villas, and houses in Sarasota and Manatee County. One of their recent property acquisitions is "Robin's Apartments" at 2303 First Street in Bradenton located by the Red Barn Flea Market on US 41.

The Vengroffs requested approval from Manatee County officials to convert a former Knights Inn Motel with 4 buildings, into affordable living Robin's Apartments. There are 60 units per building, 320 square feet each, include both one bedroom and studios, and classified as work force housing, and affordable living for people that cannot find reasonable priced housing. The apartment complex is still under construction to renovate all the units. Rooms are being completely renovated, have new electric,

kitchens were added to each room; and amenities include pool, laundry, security cameras, night security. Rent is month to month starting at \$625 per month and includes utilities of water, electric, and basic cable.

Applicants applying to rent must be gainfully employed and no unrelated people can live in same room. Average renter income is \$30,000. Manatee County Board of Commissioners has been very supportive to the owners to make this project happen, as this a type of much needed housing in our County. The owners work with several different charities to place people in need of housing.

The property was blight with undesirable people loitering in the neighborhood; and now owners have created a cleaner neighborhood, area is no longer blight, there is ample green space on the acreage property, and owners made a community garden for renters. One Stop Housing invest its money in houses and in turn will rent to good tenants who can afford to move to a better housing; giving renters an opportunity to move into one of their houses, allowing renter to accumulate credit rating to qualify for a mortgage. They are a for-profit business. The owners feel fortunate to be able to help people improve their live style. (KLD)

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Please renew your FMCCA membership so that our organization can continue to serve, enlighten and be involved with City, County and State government representatives.

Your dues payment will enable us to keep the FMCCA website, www.thefmcca.com, online for everyone's convenience, the printing and mailing of our monthly newsletter and to keep our Florida State annual non-profit report fee current and free from penalties. We have always kept our budget in line with our operational expenses and revenues thanks to your assistance. (VIC)

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 2017.

January 17 – County Commissioner Pricilla Whisenant Trace, District One

February 21 – Travis Vengroff, One Stop Housing

March 21 – County Commissioner Stephen R. Jonsson, District Three

April 18 – Bill Zoller, CONA (Sarasota County Council of Neighborhood Associations, Inc.)

May 16 – TBA

September 19 – TBA

October 17 – TBA

November 21 – TBA



IS THERE A COUNTY DEPARTMENT OR AGENCY YOU WOULD LIKE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT?
DO YOU HAVE A SPECIAL SPEAKER IN MIND?
LET US KNOW.