

Minutes for HCCA Meeting of Monday, May 19, 2008

Meeting begins promptly at 7:00 pm with the Pledge.

Mayor Bober is introduced.

He tells us Campaign Finance Reform will be on the agenda on Wednesday (the 21st).

He asks us for our support via emails to all the Commissioners.

Term limits were also discussed and will be discussed at the Wednesday meeting.

Bober discusses budget cutbacks.

The CBAs will be up with all three unions.

Bober discusses the City supporting the HCCA with promotions, perhaps through the Horizon newsletter.

Andre: If there is privatization of the sanitation department, will people lose jobs?

Bober: Privatization would have to include no loss of jobs. So far, privatization without a loss in quality of service has not been proven to him yet.

Pete Brewer: Why wait for the Charter Committee to institute Term Limits?

Bober: Constitutionally, it has to be proposed through this type of Committee.

Brewer: How about having run-offs reinstated?

Bober: Does not favor run-offs because of low voter turnout.

Brewer: Caps on candidate's spending money?

Bober: Not constitutional.

Howard: Seeded voting and public financing are the only way to have proper elections.

Bober: Public financing would not be acceptable to taxpayers.

Elizabeth: Voting should be in November.

Bober: Agrees.

Michael: What are your goals for the next four years?

Bober: 441 development must be City's task. Only enough money from FDOT to improve from Pembroke to Fillmore. Need to offer zoning incentives to developers for both 441 and Federal Highway.

Andre: How about the infrastructure? Sewers?

Bober: Cannot convert entire city to sewers, but have to along the major corridors.

Brewer: Engineering Consultants getting major money. Why not use in-house engineers?

Bober: Staff not capable for all the project consultations. Maybe they could sign this type of consultant full-time for these assignments.

Charlotte: Pensions most pressing issue.

Bober: Cannot raise taxes again to pay for benefits. Must be addressed during CBA negotiations.

Elizabeth: Will retired employees' pensions be touched?

Bober: No

Mel: Major money needed to improve outfall system is inevitable. Are we considering and increase in utility bills, perhaps 1% , to pay for this?

Bober: Perhaps in three years. Everyone should share the burden.

Bober exits.

Treasurer's Report: \$549.22 in the account.

Minutes of last meeting accepted.

Attempt at 2nd presentation of by-laws. Some members did not receive updated versions. Will be re-emailed.

Detailing of new website and advertisement sales.

Mitch presented ad prices and explained random appearances of ads on the site.

Howard: Why will people go to this site?

Mel: Each Association will have their info on the site. Also, community news will be on the main page.

Sara: Their website (Hollywood Lakes) works great and makes a lot of money.

Mitch volunteers to be a closer on all ad sales.

Ann: Could coupons be attached on the web ads as well?

Mitch: Yes.

City HR department was scheduled to speak at next meeting about City health benefits. They will not be able to attend.

Charter Review Committee discussed. We should nominate someone to go to all meetings, monitor and make suggestions.

Diane: The committee should have two or three members, so the burden is shared.

Sara: Should be a Board member who attends the Committee meetings and should be accompanied to the meetings by someone.

Mel: Should we invite more Commissioners to speak at our monthly meetings?

James: Yes, but we should stick to important issues, and avoid politics.

Mel: We will also invite State Senator candidates.

Cynthia arrives and reports on planning and zoning board hearing on 50-story beach hotel. The discussion was continued until the next meeting at the suggestion of one lone member.

Meeting ends promptly at 9:00 pm.