

HCCA Membership Meeting June 11, 2009

7:04 pledge

No objections to previous month's minutes.

Treasurer's report \$597.94

Commissioner Furr announced a meeting about a proposed Alzheimer's center (?) on June 23 at 6pm and July 7 at 6pm at The Starting Place. The purpose is to discuss Royal Poinciana concerns about new social program parking and enhancement of building. Then neighborhood concerns will go to P&Z. Moratorium on social services proposed.

Mel mentioned Budget meeting on June 23, 3-5pm and he handed out articles concerning police and government pension fund burdens.

Mel introduced our guest State Senator, Eleanor Sobel and gave an overview via handout of work done in the recent legislative session. He touched on points regarding Education, Transportation, property and business taxes, and Insurance.

Senator Sobel stated she is glad to be here with grass roots people. She has an office in Hollywood (954)924-3693. Was in Hallandale for free but due to large district and Hollywood is important as she has lived here for 30 years. She says she sees people at the legislature who are not in touch with everyday needs of the people and its "follow the money", not "follow the needs of the people". Budget not done properly. Tax exemptions not looked at. Lots of corporations being given giveaways due to headquartered in Delaware. Internet taxes not looked at. Increased license fees. money from budget came from the stimulus package. Senator thanks Pres. Obama for saving status quo and jobs. What should we do when money runs out? Senate is against new taxes Lots of possibilities not on the table. She voted against drilling due to in favor of beaches and new energy. Safety in schools, "zero tolerance", Eleanor Sobel had 2 bills: kids expelled to alternative school if commits a felony. Bill about kids who attack teachers or people who work in school. In the past kid came back in school after alternative school. New bill allows kid to be sent to different school, not the victim. Every 3 years review corporal punishment policy or it will go away. Eleanor Sobel against vouchers for private schools. The reason is that it takes money from public schools, 80% are religious schools and she believes in the separation of church and government, and also no accountability as private schools don't take FCAT. Also, the facilities aren't the same. Sen Sobel voted against increase in tuition but it went up to 15%. Eleanor Sobel voted against sales tax. Indian compact not signed. 158 million proposed. she thinks they'll take 125 million. Sen Sobel got Broward exempted from education concurrency. The bill came back Transportation concurrency was taken away from Davie Commons. Only a couple voted against growth management bill(?). She voted against Sun Rail bill. Many things attached to this bill, even Tri-Rail. 441 neglected by FDOT. I-95 from Miami express lane is being proposed for Broward. Sen Sobel believes should be interstate and not toll road. Federal grant money proposed for I-95 improvement she wants spent on 441 improvement. Citizen's insurance, Sen Sobel voted against both insurance companies bill. The reason is 1st bill said Citizen's could raise rates by 10% every year until they think they have enough. The 2nd bill was to keep State Farm by not regulating them and allowing them to cherry pick and raise their rates. Red light camera failed she thinks due to conflict over who gets to keep the money. The companies that make the cameras get too much money and also The State wanted some of the money. Condominium Bill, sprinklers. Nothing done about the foreclosure Bill. Money taken from ombudsmen budget. Enterprise zone bill, only one area got one. Sen Sobel thinks that should have been given across the board. Hollywood holocaust documentation center in Hollywood needs money. The one on the west coast gets 125k and the rest get zero. Andre asks: Is there money in the budget for text books? There is money for textbooks but depends on principal's use of the budget. 441 money. Highland Gardens has poor lighting, swales, and not safe for schools. If money received from gas tax to address those issues, how come it wasn't addressed. How come nobody can tell him where that money went. Also, Mayor tells him money is mixed up. Also, more storage tanks needed but when money taken out for that

it wasn't completed and now need that. Gas tax not addressed. Says asked commissioners and not getting answer. Money may have gone to another district. Andre says "over 30 years". Says he went to Washington for gas tax issue. Sen Sobel asked what was said and he said, "That's confidential." Sen Sobel said sometimes light is FPL responsibility. Andre said he is also working w/Greg Tourik who cares about our community. Sen Sobel said idea of looking forward instead of backward is a good idea, not looking backwards. Move ahead into the future. Says he is and asking that question for 10 years. Sen Sobel says she is looking ahead. instead of building new schools need to fill seats in schools with vacancies by moving kids around Mel asked about the rating of trust funds..Sen Sobel says no trust in trust fund anymore. mel asked about how are we going to face next year. Sen Sobel said nobody wants to raise taxes. She thinks we need to find other ways to raise revenue. Money could come from looking at corporate loopholes. david Mach asks will Senate look at expanded gambling in the state. Sen Sobel said Hollywood got nothing. Sen Sobel said we need to keep getting stimulus money. When Sun rail collapsed a group asked for money meant for Sun Rail to be used for Tri-rail. Bullet train money coming back. Mike Nobili asks if there are any economists predicting the future of the economy. Law changed about double dippers. Not able to do that anymore. Drop not extended for school board. Mike Nobili talked about his research. And said he is working on his community's issues with the Commissioner. Andre suggests having President of HCCA going to speak to the Commissioners and not e-mails. Said e-mails are secret. Mel said if the group as a whole votes for HCCA to speak then they do appear personally. He gave examples like Block 55 and Zyscovitch Plan. David Mach said speaking in person is often ignored as well. Mel said Hollywood Hills is trying new things to communicate such as a 24 page quarterly newsletter supported by advertising. And they had a picnic recently. Charter school issue on agenda at City Hall tomorrow. Sen Sobel said City would need to use money from their general fund. Said that Charlie Dodd suing School Board for capital funds. Says find out where charter will get the money to pay administrator. Mel said we have a lot of meetings coming up.