

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING
VENICE CITY COUNCIL JOINT MEETING WITH
SARASOTA COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
AND CITY OF NORTH PORT COMMISSIONERS

VENICE COMMUNITY CENTER
326 SOUTH NOKOMIS AVENUE
VENICE, FLORIDA

November 25, 2013

A Special Meeting of the Venice City Council, Sarasota County Board of County Commissioners, and City of North Port Commissioners was held this date at the Venice Community Center, 326 South Nokomis Avenue, Venice, Florida.

ELECTED OFFICIALS AND OTHERS PRESENT

The following officials were present: City of Venice Mayor John Holic, Vice Mayor Bob Daniels, Council Members Jim Bennett, Emilio Carlesimo, Jeanette Gates, Kit McKeon, David Sherman, and City Manager Ed Lavallee and City Clerk Lori Stelzer; Sarasota County Commission Chair Carolyn J. Mason, Vice Chair Charles Hines, Commissioners Joseph Barbetta, Christine Robinson, and Nora Patterson, and Interim County Administrator Thomas Harmer, County Attorney Stephen DeMarsh, Sheriff Tom Knight, Homeless Services Director Wayne Applebee, and Deputy Clerk Claudia Goodson; North Port Mayor Jim Blucher, Vice Mayor Rhonda DiFranco, Commissioners Cheryl Cook, Tom Jones, Linda Yates, and City Manager Jonathan Lewis and City Clerk Helen Raimbeau. Also present was Dr. Robert Marbut.

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Ms. Mason called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m., and following introductions, Mr. Applebee introduced Dr. Marbut.

II. DRAFT REPORT ON THE FINDINGS AND ACTION PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS RELATING TO THE HOMELESS SERVICES GAP ANALYSIS

Dr. Marbut reviewed his twelve recommendations which include moving to a culture of engagement, establishing emergency intake facilities, developing effective case management and information technology systems, addressing food shortages and holistic service programs, standardizing county-wide ordinances, establishing homeless outreach teams, providing long term housing placements, and holistic homeless service systems. Dr. Marbut responded to questions relating to housing developments being compatible with surrounding neighborhoods, maintaining property values, providing adequate housing for children, funding, moving away from enabling behaviors, triage and stabilization units not being faith-based, assisting single-

moms, potential facility locations, separate programs for families with drug and alcohol abuse, assisting people who resist help, partnering with school systems, and encouraging high school students to attend college.

Ms. Mason noted that Jane Goodwin, Sarasota County School Board Chair, was in the audience, and also mentioned that Senator Nancy Detert was instrumental in improving foster care.

Discussion ensued regarding providing cities with necessary resources to provide homeless services, standardizing county-wide ordinances, and emergency foster care laws.

Recess was taken from 11:00 a.m. until 11:14 a.m.

III. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Eric Kotte, North Port resident, urged county commissioners to take necessary steps to reopen Warm Mineral Springs.

John Minder, William Houghton (submitted a petition with 29 signatures entitled We the People of Old Englewood Village and Surrounding Neighborhoods do not want the homeless shelter located at Lemon Bay Garden Apartments at 350 North Elm Street, Englewood, Florida), John Oberst, Kathy Cushing, Kathy Bolam, John Rich, Elizabeth Cuevas-Neunder, Bennett Gross, Roberta Ruxton, and Ellen McLaughlin provided input regarding homelessness issues in Sarasota County.

IV. BOARD, COMMISSION, AND COUNCIL ACTIONS

Mr. Barbetta **moved** to direct the county attorney to work together with the municipalities' attorneys, the sheriff, the cities' chiefs of police, Dr. Robert Marbut, Assistant County Administrator Lee Ann Lowery, Homeless Services Director Wayne Applebee, and the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) representatives to provide a draft proposed standardized and harmonized ordinance, as soon as possible, to promote engagement into holistic service programs and not "criminalize" the condition of the homeless and to provide the same set of regulations throughout the county. **Seconded** by Mr. Hines. MOTION CARRIED ON VOICE VOTE UNANIMOUSLY.

Ms. Yates **moved** to direct the North Port city attorney to work with the county attorney, the municipalities' attorneys, the sheriff, the cities' chiefs of police, Dr. Robert Marbut, Assistant County Administrator Lee Ann Lowery, Homeless Services Director Wayne Applebee, and the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) representatives to provide a draft proposed standardized and harmonized ordinance, as soon as possible, to promote engagement into holistic service programs and not "criminalize" the condition of the homeless and to provide the same set of regulations throughout the county. **Seconded** by Ms. DiFranco. MOTION CARRIED BY SHOW OF HANDS UNANIMOUSLY.

Mr. Carlesimo **moved** to support the concept and the recommendations by Dr. Marbut as presented this date, entitled "Homeless Services Gaps Analysis of Sarasota County." **Seconded** by Mr. Sherman. MOTION CARRIED ON VOICE VOTE UNANIMOUSLY.

(11:53) Mr. Barbetta **moved** to direct the Interim County Administrator to work with Dr. Robert Marbut to extend the contract term, under the current contract and within the budget, to continue consulting services and to assist with the implementation process relating to homeless services. **Seconded** by Ms. Robinson. MOTION CARRIED ON VOICE VOTE UNANIMOUSLY.

V. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

ATTEST:

Mayor – City of Venice

City Clerk