

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING  
CONVOCATION OF GOVERNMENTS  
CITY COUNCIL, SARASOTA, FLORIDA

JANUARY 15, 2016

A Special Meeting of the Venice City Council, Sarasota County Board of County Commissioners, Sarasota County School Board, City of Sarasota Commissioners, Town of Longboat Key Commissioners, and City of North Port Commissioners, was held this date at the Suncoast Technical College Conference Center, 4748 Beneva Road, Sarasota, Florida.

**ELECTED OFFICIALS AND OTHERS PRESENT**

The following officials were present: City of Venice Mayor John Holic, Vice Mayor Kit McKeon, Council Members Rich Cautero, Fred Fraize, Bob Daniels, and Jeanette Gates, City Manager Ed Lavallee, and City Clerk Lori Stelzer; Sarasota Board of County Commissioners Chair Alan Maio, Vice Chair Paul Caragiulo, Commissioners Carolyn Mason, Charles D. Hines, and Christine Robinson, and County Administrator Thomas Harmer, Deputy Clerks Andrea Greer and Charlie Maloney; City of Sarasota Mayor Willie Shaw, Vice Mayor Suzanne Atwell, Commissioners Susan Chapman, Shelli Freeland Eddie, and Liz Alpert, Deputy City Manager Marlon Brown, and Deputy City Auditor and Clerk Karen McGowan; Town of Longboat Key Vice Mayor Terry Gans and Commissioner Irwin Pastor, Town Manager David Bullock, Deputy Town Clerk Jo Ann Mixon; City of North Port Mayor Jacqueline Moore, Commissioner Linda Yates, City Manager Jonathan Lewis, and City Clerk Helen Raimbeau; School Board of Sarasota County Chair Shirley Brown, Vice Chair Caroline Zucker, Board Members Frank Kovach, Jane Goodwin, and Bridget Ziegler, Superintendent Lori White, and Administrative Assistant Zoe Marshall.

**I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Ms. Brown called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. and introductions were made.

**II. CONVOCATION GOALS AND AGENDA**

Ms. Brown reviewed agenda items and goals, noting the addition of discussion on closing the Venice Library.

**III. UPDATE ON SUNCOAST TECHNICAL COLLEGE AND JOINT-USE PUBLIC LIBRARY PROJECT**

Dr. Todd Bowden, Executive Director, Sarasota County Schools and Sarabeth Kalajian, Director, Sarasota County Libraries and Historical Resources, provided an update on the Suncoast Technical College in North Port, including the joint use public library and conference center project. Dr.

Bowden's presentation included a location map, the facility functioning as a multi-use campus, parking layout and design, an exterior rendering, the finalized course list, industrial maintenance, and the first enrollment scheduled for August, 2017.

Ms. Kalajian discussed community meetings that were held, field trip to the Sarasota campus, Friends of the Library being established, efforts to name the library after former County Commissioner Shannon Staub, and the possibility of state construction grants.

Discussion followed on funding, design, construction schedule, north Sarasota opportunities, public meeting spaces and several multi-purpose rooms being available.

#### **IV. UPDATE ON THE MACHINIST PROGRAM**

Dr. Bowden reported on program completions, graduates, current enrollment and evening classes being offered on demand. Discussion followed on prerequisites, area construction demand, apprenticeships, needs of local governments, shortage of building and fire inspectors, internships, tuition, fire and police academies, certification requirements for inspectors, and pursuing a change to allow career college certificates at the technical college level.

#### **V. JOINT USE OPPORTUNITIES**

Carolyn Brown provided the history of the schools and county parks working together, building up past successes and collaborations, parks at schools, schools at county-owned and/or maintained parks, agreements and partnerships, being responsive to community needs, array of opportunities, collaborative project teams, transparency, easily fulfilled agreements and understanding roles.

Ms. Ebaugh reported on opportunities to expand partnerships, 2016 interlocal agreement update planned, shared community use agreements, good governance of taxpayer dollars, flexibility and broad coverage in the agreement, the agreement being easily managed, opportunities for a two-way agreement, and the timeline for completion of the updated interlocal agreement.

Discussion followed on opportunities to share future investments, and improving park and school facilities.

Carolyn Brown addressed collocating investment opportunities including multi-purpose fields, gymnasiums, and jointly funded school/park facilities. Ms. Ebaugh reported on working relations with the school board, Sarasota County and developers, and Venice Middle School athletic fields' project.

Discussion followed on security at facilities, master parks plan process, flexibility in the interlocal agreement, special needs use, aquatic facilities, school impact fees, and park impact fees.

**VI. CITY OF VENICE**

*Capital Project Funding.* Mayor Holic noted the city's desire to participate with joint funding projects, similar to the Venice Performing Arts Center (VPAC), and the need to consider elderly population when building facilities.

*Street Lighting.* Ms. Gates reported on the need for additional street lighting at Bahama Street near Venice Elementary and Venice High Schools and suggested the school board and city discuss as a partnership.

*VPAC Sign Visibility.* Ms. Gates noted the VPAC sign on the building is difficult to see and asked for support in resolving the sign and street lighting issues.

*Building Code and Fire Inspector Curriculum.* Ms. Brown advised participants to notify Scott Lempe of any safety issues and Todd Bowden for the need for fire and building inspectors.

*Closing of Venice Library.* Ms. Gates addressed the effect the closing of the Venice Library will have on the community, including use by the elementary schools, the need for an interim plan, and demand for public meeting space. Mr. Maio reported that city and county staff and administrations are working together and are analyzing 5-6 sites. Ms. Gates suggested the Venice High School library change hours in the interim to accommodate students who use the Venice Library.

**VII. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Nicholas Trolli, North Port, thanked the boards for the college being placed in North Port and suggested a developer partner with the governmental entities to build an aquatic center, which would benefit children in the area.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

ATTEST:

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Mayor – City of Venice

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City Clerk