

**NORTH PORT CITY COMMISSION
JOINT MEETING IN A
CONVOCATION OF GOVERNMENTS
FRIDAY, JANUARY 15, 2016**

PRESENT:

North Port Commission: Mayor Moore; Vice-Mayor DiFranco; Commissioners Cook, Jones and Yates; City Manager Lewis; and City Clerk Raimbeau.

Sarasota County Commission: Chair Maio; Vice-Chair Caragiulo; Commissioners Hines, Mason and Robinson; and County Administrator Harmer; and Deputy Clerks Greer and Maloney.

Sarasota County School Board: Chair Brown; Vice-Chair Zucker Board Members Goodwin, Kovach, and Ziegler; and Administrative Assistant Marshall.

City of Sarasota: Mayor Shaw; Vice-Mayor Atwell; Commissioners Atwell, Chapman and Eddie; Deputy City Manager Brown; Deputy City auditor and Clerk McGowan.

City of Venice: Mayor Holic; Vice-Mayor McKeon; Council Members Cautero, Daniels, Fraize and Gates; City Manager Lavalley and City Clerk Stelzer.

Town of Longboat Key: Vice-Mayor Gans; Commissioner Pastor; Town Manager Bullock; and Deputy Town Clerk Mixon.

The Convocation of Governments meeting was called to order at 9:27 a.m. in the Suncoast Technical College Conference Center by Sarasota County School Board Chair Brown.

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Brown welcomed and introduced the County, City, and Town Commissioners, Council Members, School Board Members, and other City and County Representatives who were present.

II. CONVOCATION GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Subsequent to Chair Brown introducing the agenda items and presenters, City of Venice Council Member Gates requested a discussion regarding the closing of the Venice Public Library as an additional agenda item.

III. UPDATE ON SUNCOAST TECHNICAL COLLEGE, JOINT-USE PUBLIC LIBRARY, CONFERENCE CENTER PROJECT

Sarasota County School Board Career, Technical, and Adult Education Executive Director Dr. Todd Bowden and Libraries and Historical resources Director Sarabeth Kalajian provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding an update on the development efforts in North Port between Sarasota County School Board and Suncoast Technical College (SCT) and Joint-Use Public Library. It is projected that the first enrollment for the North Port STC will begin in August, 2017.

Discussion ensued regarding: (1) supporting the application to the State Construction Grant for Libraries in the amount of \$500,000.00; (2) possibilities of a similar facility in North Sarasota County; (3) North

Port Commission providing a letter of support for the State Construction Grant and development of the Joint-Use Public Library and Conference Center including meeting rooms for public and private use; (3) public outreach to ensure the focus on education.

IV. UPDATE ON THE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT MACHINIST PROGRAM

Dr. Bowden provided an overview and PowerPoint presentation regarding an update on the Workforce Development Machinist Program (Program).

Discussion ensued regarding: (1) previous scheduled evening classes and the possibility of continuing evening classes in the future; (2) student credentials and qualifying standards for the Program; (3) current working students interested in upgrading their skill levels; (4) with an increase in development, construction job opportunities in North Port, Venice and Sarasota County for graduating students; (5) the development of a Community Based Career Program including an internship/apprentice and a construction short course; (6) conversations with various jurisdictions regarding the need for Firefighters and Police Officers; (7) shortages of building and fire inspectors throughout the County and other jurisdictions and required qualifications for a building and fire inspector; (8) contacting Sarasota County High Schools to promote a construction internship program; (9) criteria for determining the amount of student tuition and available financial assistance; (10) encouraging employment and developing internships and apprentice programs in the government sector; (11) possibilities of enhancing the current fire and police training academy including developing a location in North Port; (12) proposed review of the required qualifications for a building and fire inspector not requiring college education but certification from accredited technical colleges offering the training courses; (13) increased number of building and fire inspectors reaching retirement age.

V. JOINT USE OPPORTUNITIES

Sarasota County Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources Director Brown and Sarasota County Schools Planning Director Ebaugh provided an overview and PowerPoint presentation regarding Joint Use Opportunities. Staff requested direction on moving forward with a revised Interlocal Agreement with Sarasota County Parks & Recreation and Sarasota County School Board.

Discussion ensued regarding: (1) proposed revised Interlocal Agreement with Sarasota County Parks & Recreation and Sarasota County School Board; (2) public afterhours and weekend access to school recreational facilities and meeting space; (3) shared future investments and funding sources for new sports fields, playgrounds and facilities; (4) possible future school sites combining with future park facility locations; (5) liability issues with public use of afterhours school facilities; (6) suggestion of increased security measures for afterhours school access; (7) proposed completion date for the Parks & Recreation Master Plan; (8) connecting with parents with special needs children to educate on programs offered through Parks & Recreation and funding sources for participation in the programs; (9) addressing a question regarding possible consideration for development of aquatic facilities, Director Brown reported that there are no plans for the development of aquatic facilities being considered at this time; (10) proposed Sarasota School Impact Fees to be approved by the Sarasota Board of County Commissioners.

Noting that comments will be considered in the development of a revised Interlocal Agreement, it was agreed that Director Brown should move forward with an evaluation to use Park Impact Fee funding for the improvement of Venice Middle School fields and campus recreational opportunities.

VI. CITY OF VENICE

City of Venice Mayor Holic and Council Member Gates commented on Capital Project funding, concerns regarding street lighting, Venice Performing Arts Center sign visibility, and the Building Code/Fire Inspector curriculum.

Discussion ensued regarding: (1) State legislation addressing safety issues for student pedestrian travel to and from school. It was agreed to research the concerns regarding street lighting in relationship to the safety of students going to and from school; (2) suggestion of working together with Sarasota County jurisdictions to research sidewalks and street lighting around school areas to address safety concerns.

It was requested that City Managers send an email to Dr. Bowden under the heading of Fire Inspectors and Building Inspectors noting the shortage of qualified applicants for Fire and Building Inspectors and encouraging SCT to develop education courses for these positions. It was further requested that representatives email Sarasota County School Deputy Superintendent Scott Lempe concerns regarding sidewalks, lighting and other student safety issues around schools.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

City of Venice Council Member Gates noted for the record that Venice Elementary and Epiphany Cathedral School have approximately 25 students who attend the Venice Public Library daily. Venice High School has approximately 20 students who attend the Library daily. The closing of the library will cause a hardship on the youth and meeting spaces will be reduced.

Subsequent to all agreeing to a request by School Board Chair Brown to extend the meeting for ten minutes to enable response to concerns discussed regarding the closing of the Venice Public Library, Sarasota Board of County Commissioners Chair Maio provided an overview on the issues that led to the decision to close the library and noted that temporary site locations are being reviewed. Sarasota County Administrator Harmer noted that locations are being researched to accommodate various groups utilizing the Venice Public Library meeting rooms. Commissioner Robinson commented on the closing of the library noting that patrons were given advance notification to allow for time to make other arrangements for student attendance at the library and public meeting spaces.

VIII. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Public comment was held from 11:05 a.m. to 11:06 a.m.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Brown adjourned the Convocation of Governments meeting at 11:06 a.m.

City of North Port, Florida

By: _____
Jacqueline Moore, Mayor

Attest: _____
Helen M. Raimbeau, MMC, City Clerk

Minutes approved at the City Commission Regular Meeting this ____ day of _____, 2016.