

**NORTH PORT CITY COMMISSION
JOINT MEETING IN A
CONVOCATION OF GOVERNMENTS
FRIDAY, JANUARY 20, 2017**

NOTE: This is a draft copy of the minutes of the 01-20-2017 Convocation of Governments Meeting, has not been approved by the Commission and is subject to change.

PRESENT:

North Port Commission: Mayor Yates; Commissioners Hanks and McDowell; City Manager Lewis; and City Clerk Adkins.

Sarasota County Commission: Chair Caragiulo; Commissioners Hines, Maio, Moran; and County Administrator Harmer.

Sarasota County School Board: Chair Caroline Zucker, Jane Goodwin, Shirley Brown, Eric Robinson, Superintendent, Lori White, Administrative Assistant. Zoe Marshall.

City of Sarasota: Mayor Shaw; Vice-Mayor Eddie; Commissioners Brown and Chapman; and City Manager Barwin; and City Clerk McGowan.

City of Venice: Mayor Holic; Vice-Mayor Cautero; Council Members McKeon; Gates; Anderson, City Clerk, Lori Selzer; Assistant City Manager, Lynn Bramble.

Town of Longboat Key: Mayor Gans; and Town Manager Bullock; Town Clerk, Jo Ann Mixon.

The Convocation of Governments meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. in the Suncoast Technical College Conference Center by Frank Kovach, Chair of the School Board of Sarasota County.

I. WELCOME / INTRODUCTIONS

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

II. CONVOCATION GOALS AND AGENDA

Chair Zucker introduced the agenda items and presenters.

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

Mr. Todd Bowden, representing the Suncoast Technical College provided an update of the project between Sarasota County School Board and Sarasota County on the joint use public library and the North Port Suncoast Technical College: (1) the joint library has been named the Shannon Staub Public Library; (2) the facility will include a large young adult center, children's storytime room, student friendly hours and an early literacy initiative; (3) the Grand Opening is planned for August, 2017; (4) programs offered in Phase 1, includes accounting and industrial technologies; and Phase 2, includes automotive technology, cosmetology, Commercial Driver's License (CDL), EMP and paramedic classes.

Following two questions, Mr. Bowden stated that a study was conducted and it was determined that a Firefighter and Police Training Tower will not be possible at the previous North Port site but there is room on the STC campus for a tower and opportunity to perform inservice training. The second question was regarding water treatment courses, and it was stated that a Public Works Operator is a specialized field and tends to be very expensive to offer unless more students can be drawn from a larger geographic region.

IV. UPDATE ON THE MACHINIST AND NEW TRADE INITIATIVE PROGRAMS

Mr. Bowden provided an update: (1) in May, 2013, the Precision Machining program was created at the Sarasota County Technical Institute in collaboration between Sarasota County Government, the Sarasota County School Board, CareerEdge, and the Gulf Coast Community Foundation; (2) the first class began in September, 2015 and as of January, 2017, there are 37 students currently enrolled; (3) it is anticipated to have 100 graduates in the next five years; (4) the Gene Haas Foundation donated over \$40,000 for equipment; (5) the Suncoast Technical College has earned accreditation status; (6) since inception in 2014, the 64 graduates all had 100% job placement; (7) there are over 22 employers and partnerships to date.

V. UPDATE ON JOINT USE OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARKS AND SCHOOL FACILITIES

Ms. Carolyn Brown and Kathy Ebaugh provided an update: (1) Sarasota County parks at school include Tatum Ridge soccer fields, Pine View athletic courts, Riverview tennis courts, and school facilities for summer camps; (2) schools at county-owned/maintained parks include Hecksher Park for the Venice Tennis Team, Twin Lakes and Butler Park for baseball, and Miss Sarasota softball; (3) opportunities to expand partnerships include updating the school/park Interlocal Agreement by the Spring of 2017; (4) good governance of taxpayer dollars include the expansion of park inventory with existing facilities, providing use of parks by schools, and increasing community access to schools.

VI. HOMELESS STUDENTS

School Board Member Lori White provided an overview: (1) all programs for homeless students are run by the Sarasota Family YMCA with funds from both Title I and Title X; (2) Sarasota County identified 867 homeless students during the spring of the 2015-2016 school year; (3) special services are provided to homeless students by Schoolhouse Link (SHL); (4) goals include achieving school stability and improving attendance and academic success for all homeless students; (5) 2013-2016 data was shared regarding school attendance, reading and math.

VII. CITY OF VENICE

Assistant City Manager Bramble provided the following report: (1) the possible joint use of the lightning detection system at Venice High School and the Wellfield Sports Complex in Venice; (2) the possible expansion of partnerships with the Sarasota County School Board and the City of Venice.

VIII. CITY OF NORTH PORT

Mayor Yates provided the following: (1) opportunities for investment partnerships for a joint-use 50-meter pool; (2) school bus stop locations and associated lighting, sidewalks and other long-range plans were discussed, such as the program, Safe Routes to Schools.

City Manager Lewis presented the following items: (1) possible joint funding for School Resource Officers in elementary schools with possible options and impacts; (2) there is a need for traffic signalization and adequate street lighting at the intersection of North Port High School and the Heron

Creek Middle School; (3) the Spring Haven Drive connector road adjacent to Glenallen Elementary School and Heron Creek Middle School.

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no additional business to discuss.

X. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

There was no public comment.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Zucker adjourned the Convocation of Governments meeting at 11:13 a.m.

City of North Port, Florida

By: _____
Linda M. Yates, Mayor

Attest: _____
Patsy C. Adkins, MMC, City Clerk

Minutes approved at the City Commission Regular Meeting this ____ day of _____, 2017.