

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE MANASOTA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.,
HELD ON JANUARY 8, 2015

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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| City of Anna Maria | - | Mayor Dan Murphy, Board Member |
| City of Bradenton | - | Councilman Patrick Roff, Secretary/Treasurer |
| City of Bradenton Beach | - | Mayor William "Bill" Shearon, Board Member |
| City of Holmes Beach | - | Commissioner Jean Peelen, Board Member |
| Town of Longboat Key | - | Vice Mayor Jack Duncan, President |
| City of North Port | - | Commissioner Linda Yates, Board Member |
| City of Palmetto | - | Commissioner Brian Williams, Alternate Board Member (joined meeting at 9:35) |
| City of Sarasota | - | Mayor Willie Charles Shaw, Board Member (left the meeting at 11:15) |
| Sarasota County | - | Commissioner Paul Caragiulo, Board Member (alternate for Commissioner Carolyn Mason) |
| City of Venice | - | Councilman Kit McKeon, Board Member |

ABSENT:

- | | | |
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| Pamela M. Nadalini | - | Executive Director |
| Sarasota County | - | Carolyn Mason, Board Member |

ALSO PRESENT:

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| Ex-Officio Member | - | Sandra Haas-Martens |
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PRESIDING:

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| - | President Jack Duncan |
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I. CALL TO ORDER

President Duncan called to order the January 8, 2015, Regular Meeting of the Manasota League of Cities (MSLC) at 9:30 a.m. President Duncan requested an introduction from each member. President Duncan recognized members of the audience: Andy Hansen local representative Florida League of Cities; GeeDee Kerr representing Senator Nancy Detert; Lori Moran representing Representative Gregory Steube.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Duncan led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of Member Shearon and second by Member Shaw, it was moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 6, 2014. Motion carried unanimously (9-0). Roff, yes; Shearon, yes; Peelen, yes; Duncan, yes; Yates, yes; Caragiulo, yes; Murphy, yes; McKeon, yes; Shaw, yes.

IV. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

None.

V. PUBLIC INPUT

President Duncan extended the public input to the representatives in the audience.

GeeDee Kerr spoke stating Senator Detert is in Tallahassee at this time, but wanted the Manasota League to know that she is available at any time to League members.

VI. REPORTS OR REMARKS OF ASSOCIATE MEMBERS AND EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

None.

VII. REPORTS

1. President's Report

President Duncan stated the Florida League of Cities FAST Fly-In to Washington, D.C., is February 10, 2015.

Member McKeon commented that the Manasota League, as a lobbying agent, is most effective directing their efforts on the local level and in Tallahassee.

Secretary/Treasurer Roff stated that the Gasoline Tax issue is now on the table for Congress to address and will continue to lobby on this item that has a proposed tax hike of 12% over two years and proposed to attend the FAST Fly-In with this as one of the prime objectives.

Member Yates stated that she agrees that this issue is critical and is very supportive of Secretary/Treasurer Roff attending.

President Duncan gave a brief description of the FAST Fly-In to Washington, D.C.

On motion of Member Shearon, second of Member Caragiulo, it was moved that Secretary/Treasurer Roff be authorized to participate in the FLC FAST Fly-In. Motion carried unanimously (9-0). Roff, yes; Shearon, yes; Peelen, yes; Duncan, yes; Yates, yes; Williams, yes; Caragiulo, yes; Murphy, yes; McKeon, yes; Shaw, yes.

2. Vice President's Report

Vice President Mason was absent. Member Caragiulo sat in her absence and stated that he did not have a report.

3. Treasurer's Report

Secretary/Treasurer Roff reviewed recent expenses, copy of dues checks and the itemized bank statement as of November 28, 2014 showing a balance of \$24,513.71 as of 11/28/14. Adding recently received dues checks brings balance to \$27,913.00.

President Duncan extended a thank you to the Sarasota City Auditor and Clerk and staff for their assistance with the Manasota League of Cities.

Member McKeon addressed the alert of a low bank account balance. Secretary/Treasurer Roff stated the low mark is \$20,000.00 that would raise an alarm.

Member Williams asked about the \$500 Membership fee in which he feels is a low amount. Secretary/Treasurer Roff stated that the need for an increase has not been there and that the account is used for lobbying mainly.

Ex-Officio Member Haas-Martens added that the Florida League of Cities (FLC) gives the Manasota League \$300 monthly.

4. Florida League of Cities' Board of Directors

District Director Roff stated a meeting of the Board of Directors was held in November of 2014 in Orlando; that a decision was made to analyze the number of seats needed between Cape Coral and Pembroke Pines for the 10th largest city; it was determined that analization on the number of seats needed to exceed, how often looked at and what the source of census would be is needed in order to make a decision.

5. Executive Director

Executive Director Nadalini was absent and Gail Loeffler spoke in her absence.

Ms. Loeffler presented a status report on amending the By-Laws. She stated that copies of By-Laws have been obtained from the FLC and a few of the FLC regional leagues; that a comparison will be made between the ManaSota League By-Laws and the other regional leagues. Florida League of Cities Staff Attorney Ryan Padget has agreed to assist, if necessary, with providing information.

Ms. Loeffler stated that the FLC made contact concerning the Continuing Education and Ethics Workshops asking if the ManaSota League is willing to assist in facilitating upcoming workshops. There is a new State law requiring elected officials to take Ethics Training beginning January 1, 2015 for four hours each calendar year. Training last year does not count. Manatee County will hold one in the spring, no date given. ManaSota will hold a training around spring and maybe one in the fall at the expense of the Florida League of Cities. Dates will be determined at a later time. Sarasota County is offering classes on line, but no details provided.

6. Advocacy Report

President Duncan stated that he distributed information concerning the ManaSota League of Cities' 2015 Legislative Priorities and copies of letters to Senator Detert, Representative Steube, Representative Pilon and Representative Gonzalez whom he stated he met with each personally. He stated that meetings have been scheduled to speak with Senator Galvano and Representative Boyd. He discussed the Medical Marijuana information packet that was included with the information and stated that it cannot come back as a constitutional amendment initiative until 2016 which gives time to lobby.

Member Williams stated that the Board should start discussion in June of 2015 to be on time with the early Legislative Session in 2015. Member Peelen stated discussion should begin on all probable priorities for 2016.

President Duncan complimented the Bboard for their advocacy effort with the priorities.

Member Yates stated she also met with Senator Detert, Representative Gonzalez, Representative Pilon and Representative Steube who were very receptive to the issues of the ManaSota League. She stated she did strongly advocate the Backyard Firing Ranges which is a priority of the City of North Port.

President Duncan requested that this item is placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

Member Shaw discussed the Mental Health Initiatives which is a priority for the City of Sarasota. He stated that Representative Vern Buchanan and Representative Dan Murphy have put on the table HR-3717 in support of this priority.

GeeDee Kerr stated that recently a small group of judges and law enforcement personnel met in Tallahassee to discuss the mental health problems in Florida and will meet often to continue discussion.

President Duncan requested a Special Meeting be held on March 5 at 9:30 a.m. to discuss the By-Laws.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

IX. NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Shearon shared his visit with the swearing in of the Governor; that he spoke with former Representative Ashton and Senator Longford in District 3; that he lobbied while there and distributed the ManaSota League Legislative Priorities brochures; that the Governor's main accomplishments is the increase of over 600,000 job openings in less than four years; that the Governor discussed his push for ports and larger vessels; that infrastructure was a concern especially roads; that education was a concern; that Visit Florida would help increase the economy; that the tax reform and tax cuts were discussed.

Member Williams stated that the City of Palmetto is promoting the wearing of body cameras by Police Officers in the City's Police Department and is incurring problems moving forward; that due to the Florida Sunshine Law, the press and public can request a copy of a video which raises concerns about liability; that the Board is requested to consider advocating for an exemption period in which a video would not be available to the press and public.

Member Williams also placed a challenge on the table for each Board member to bring in at least one new Associate Member to join the ManaSota League of Cities. President Duncan discussed the benefits of being an Associate Member.

Member McKeon stated that in a conversation with Representative Gonzalez, he shared that there are some concerns with the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council in that the fertilizer industry is trying to negate the Fertilizer Ordinance that is now in place; that the quality of water, especially in the southwest part of Florida, is very important to the economy.

X. OTHER MATTERS

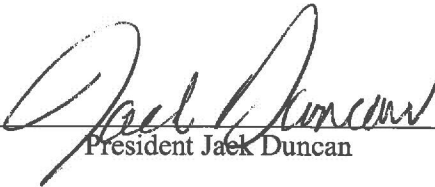
XI. FUTURE MEETINGS

Special Meeting – March 5, 2015 at 9:30 a.m.

Regular Meeting – March 12, 2015 at 9:30 a.m.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.



President Jack Duncan