

MINUTES
MANASOTA LEAGUE OF CITIES
REGULAR MEETING (Hybrid)
SEPTEMBER 8, 2022

Present: President Jen Ahearn-Koch (Sarasota), Vice President Debbie McDowell (North Port), Treasurer Brian Williams (Palmetto), Commissioner Carol Carter (Anna Maria), Councilman Bill Sanders (Bradenton), Commissioner B.J. Bishop (Longboat Key), Commissioner Terry Schaefer (Holmes Beach), Councilman Jim Boldt (Venice), Mayor John Chappie (Bradenton Beach - entered at 9:34 a.m.).

Also Present: Administrative Coordinator Gail Loeffler, Administrative Assistant Stephanie Janney.

1. Call Meeting to Order and Pledge of Allegiance:

President Ahearn-Koch called the Regular Meeting of the ManaSota League of Cities to order at 9:30 a.m. She then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Special Presentations:

- A. United Way of Florida ALICE program (**A**sset **L**imited, **I**ncome **C**onstrained, **E**mployed) – Douglas Griesenauer, United Way Suncoast, Sr. Director, Workforce Development & Financial Stability

President Ahearn-Koch introduced Mr. Douglas Griesenauer, a Senior Director for United Way Suncoast Division. Mr. Griesenauer provided an overview of the ALICE program noting local and statewide help lines. Discussions were held on the following topics/issues:

- the differences between family sizes, geographical locations, and the needs of each family member
- the recent pandemic and inflation rising in contrast to the prior cost of living
- available help lines for those in need (2-1-1 At Your Finger Tips and new mental health help line, 9-8-8).

3. Public Input: Time is set aside for members of the public to comment.
No items were presented.

4. Approval of Minutes: Meeting of July 14, 2022

President Ahearn-Koch advised there were scrivener's errors on the minutes and suggested amendments to the Minutes as follows: page 1, Members present (remove the title of Commissioner next to Councilman Sanders), page 2, remove the period from affordable housing, page 2, item 4, rename approval of minutes to May 10, 2022 (renamed from March 10, 2022), page 2, item 5F, rename the meeting Treasurer Williams was not able to attend.

Treasurer Williams moved to approve the July 14, 2022, Regular meeting minutes, as amended. The motion, seconded by Member Bishop, carried unanimously.

5. Reports and Communications:

- A. Associate Member comments

No items were presented.

B. President's Report - President Ahearn-Koch

President Ahearn-Koch discussed her attendance at the annual Florida League of Cities Conference and commented on the lunch and breakfast meetings.

President Ahearn-Koch commented on City tours, and informed Member Boldt of Board's decision to tour each member city. She advised that the City of Sarasota tour is scheduled for November 4, 2022, to begin at 8:30 a.m., and discussed details for the upcoming tour.

C. Vice President's Report - Vice President McDowell

Vice President McDowell discussed her attendance at the Annual Florida League of Cities Conference, and stated that she is a member of the Nominating Committee. She noted that the Committee was able to nominate a second vice president to ascend to president of Florida League of Cities in approximately two years.

D. Treasurer's Report – Treasurer Williams

1. Request for approval to transfer funds held by Edward Jones to a higher-yield account
Treasurer Williams stated the account balance and requested consideration for the placement of \$10,000 into a CD (Certificate of Deposit). Discussions were held on the timeframe for purchase of a CD and length of the CD term.

Member Carter moved to approve the purchase of a CD in the name of the ManaSota League of Cities in the amount of \$10,000.00. The motion, seconded by Member Schaefer, carried unanimously.

Treasurer Williams stated several municipalities had reserved seats at the Florida League of Cities annual conference breakfast meeting, but did not attend, and advised that those municipalities will receive an invoice for the cost associated with their reservation.

E. Administrative Coordinator's Report – Gail Loeffler

Following comments by Administrative Coordinator Gail Loeffler, discussions were held on the following topics/issues:

- hosting a candidate forum
- limited time frame to schedule a forum
- impact to Board Members regular municipal meeting schedules
- option to contact the League of Women Voters and coordinate for a candidate forum
- consideration to host an after-dinner reception for candidates and members in attendance as a way to acknowledge their efforts.

Ms. Loeffler noted difficulty in obtaining candidate names from the Manatee County Supervisor of Elections (SOE) office and President Ahearn-Koch requested that members who had ability to contact the Manatee SOE and obtain information to provide to Ms. Loeffler.

There was consensus to pursue scheduling an event with candidates, pre/post Primary Election, at Sarasota City Hall and to have Ms. Loeffler coordinate the details.

F. Florida League of Cities (FLC) Board of Directors Report – District 10 Director Williams
No items were presented.

G. FLC Legislative Committee member updates

The following members stated they will be at meetings on September 16 for FLC Committees: Member Sanders, Member Bishop, Vice President McDowell, Treasurer Williams, President Ahearn-Koch.

H. Key Contacts, Advocacy Committees, and FAST Committee members updates

President Ahearn-Koch stated that she is on the FLC Advocacy Committee and they have not had a meeting at this time.

Member Sanders stated he is on the FAST Committee, but was unable to find the meeting location at the Florida League of Cities annual conference, and that he will endeavor to attend the meeting on September 15 or 16, 2022.

6. Old Business:

A. Update Re: Hosting Florida House and Senate Candidate Forum prior to General Election—Administrative Coordinator Loeffler

Item was previously discussed under item 5E – Administrative Coordinator Report.

7. A. Legislative priorities for 2023 Florida Legislative Session March 7, 2023 – May 5, 2023

President Ahearn-Koch thanked the municipalities who submitted their legislative priorities, and stated that the City of Sarasota will have their priorities to submit for the next meeting.

Member Bishop stated that the first meeting for the Town of Longboat Key is next Monday, and that she will suggest the priorities at that meeting.

Member Carter stated that the City of Anna Maria is working on other things, but legislative priorities will be coming.

Administrative Coordinator Loeffler stated that local legislative delegations could be meeting as soon as October, and would need our legislative priorities sooner than later.

Member Schaefer discussed the City of Holmes Beach newest priority, single use plastic reduction.

Member Bishop stated that we, as a whole, are so far behind places like Alaska and Canada in regards to environmental issues, and that if we don't change the way we do things, there will be dire consequences.

It was agreed by all members to have priorities submitted by the next meeting, scheduled for November 10, 2022.

B. Appointment of member(s) to present legislative priorities to Manatee and Sarasota Legislative Delegation meetings.

Member Bishop nominated President Ahearn-Koch to present the combined priorities. There were no other nominations.

8. Member Comments:

A. City Tours

Vice President McDowell commented that scheduling City Tours should be put on a future agenda.

B. Travel

President Ahearn-Koch stated that for the next Legislative Action Days trip to Tallahassee, the Board should look into travelling together via a van or other means for convenience and to be environmentally friendly.

Treasurer Williams stated that would depend on what COVID-19 is doing at the time of travel.

C. Other Meetings

Member Carter stated that the next Barrier Island Elected Officials (BIEO) meeting will be held at city hall in the City of Anna Maria on September 14, 2022. Members might consider attending virtually, as there is a special presentation on Charter County Government.

9. Next Meeting:

The next Regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 10, 2022.

10. Adjournment

President Ahearn-Koch adjourned the Regular Meeting at 10:53 a.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jen Ahearn-Koch', written over a horizontal line.

Jen Ahearn-Koch, President

Submitted by: Stephanie Janney, Administrative Assistant, Town of Longboat Key

Minutes Approved: 11-10-2022