

**MINUTES
MANASOTA LEAGUE OF CITIES
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 20, 2025**

Present: President B.J. Bishop (Longboat Key), Vice President Lisa Gonzalez-Moore (Bradenton), Member Charles Salem (Anna Maria), Member Debbie Scaccianoce (Bradenton Beach), Member Terry Schaefer (Holmes Beach), Member Demetrius Petrow (North Port)

Absent: Treasurer Brian Williams (Palmetto), Member Jen Ahearn-Koch (Sarasota), Member Nick Pachota (Venice)

Also Present: Administrative Coordinator Gail Loeffler, Deputy Town Clerk II Stephanie Garcia

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

President Bishop called the March 20, 2025, Regular Meeting of the ManaSota League of Cities to order at 9:34 a.m. in the Commission Chamber at 501 Bay Isles Road, Longboat Key, Florida, and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Approval of Minutes

Member Schafer moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 23, 2025. The motion, seconded by Member Scaccianoce, passed unanimously.

3. Reports

A. President Report

No items were presented.

B. Vice President Report

No items were presented.

C. Treasurer Report

President Bishop inquired as to the number of those who attended the Florida League of Cities FAST (Federal Action Strike Team) Fly-In to Washington, D.C., and requested that all who attended submit their expenditure reports and receipts for reimbursement.

D. Florida League of Cities District 10 Representative Report

No items were presented.

E. Administrative Coordinator Report

Administrative Coordinator Gail Loeffler presented items outlined in her report and also expressed her gratitude to Members Salem and Schaefer for their assistance in rewriting and posting the job duties of her position.

(Note: Vice President Lisa Gonzalez-Moore arrived at 9:39 a.m.)

I. Florida League of Cities (FLC) FAST (Federal Action Strike Team) Report

Vice President Lisa Gonzalez-Moore and President Bishop commented on and reviewed the meetings and issues discussed in Washington.

F. Florida League of Cities (FLC) Leadership Program Report

President Bishop noted her attendance with other members at this event and reviewed the items discussed.

G. National League of Cities (NLC) Congressional Conference Report

President Bishop noted her attendance with other members at this event and reviewed the issues discussed.

H. Florida League of Cities (FLC) Tallahassee Action Days

President Bishop inquired as to the number of attendees/representatives scheduled to attend the event. Discussion ensued.

4. Old Business

Discussion regarding hiring an Administrative Coordinator for the ManaSota League of Cities (MSLC) Board due to the impending retirement of Ms. Gail Loeffler.

Following comments from President Bishop, the following topics were discussed:

- the interview process for a new Administrative Coordinator
- location of job posting/advertisement
- application deadline closing dates
- previous interview panel/addition to panel of Vice President Gonzalez-Moore.

5. New Business

A. Discussion Re: Regional Transportation Issues

Following comments from President Bishop, the following issues were discussed:

- available grant funding opportunities
- alternative transportation/results
- local representation on the MPO (Metropolitan Planning Organization) Board
- traffic relief
- barrier island bridge replacements
- available off-island parking
- FDOT (Florida Department of Transportation) communication
- partnerships between municipalities to provide free ride-share programs/extension of ride-share areas
- relationship between the usage of public transportation and patronage of local businesses
- County support for ride-share programs
- options/benefits to shuttle employees on and off the islands
- bicycle lanes/lack of continuity between islands.

There was consensus to include traffic relief as a topic of discussion at the next regular meeting.

B. Discussion Re: Location of future ManaSota League meetings

President Bishop expressed her disappointment in the unavailability of a meeting to be held at the City of Sarasota and noted the need for the new Administrative Coordinator to take minutes and run the technical equipment for recordings.

Vice President Gonzalez-Moore noted she will coordinate with the Bradenton City Clerk, Tamara Melton, to schedule future meetings in their Chamber at City Hall.

Member Debbie Scaccianoce mentioned that the City of Bradenton Beach could also accommodate a future meeting.

There was consensus to have future meetings in the City of Bradenton if City staff can accommodate facility usage and recording equipment in their City Hall Chamber.

President Bishop asked Ms. Loeffler to follow up with representatives from the Florida League of Cities (FLC) to ensure they are informed of the change in location for the next regular meeting due to the meeting location change.

6. Remarks from Members

A. Governmental Operations

Member Scaccianoce noted the Governor's recent decision to create a Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) for the State of Florida. Individual comments followed.

B. Legislation

President Bishop inquired as to the number of completed surveys recently sent out by the Florida League of Cities regarding property taxes and alternative funding options. Individual comments followed.

C. Personnel

Administrative Coordinator Gail Loeffler mentioned her intent to retire before the next Regular Meeting on May 8, 2025.

President Bishop noted the interview process and the desire to schedule a special meeting to hire a replacement before the next regularly scheduled meeting.

D. Grant Funding

Vice President Gonzalez-Moore noted joint meetings with the Manatee County Board of County Commissioners regarding the Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) and parameters/requirements associated with receiving funds. Individual comments followed.

E. Elevate Florida

President Bishop noted the new program sponsored by the Florida Department of Emergency Management (FDEM), "Elevate Florida." Discussion ensued on the following topics:

- funding opportunity
- application process
- municipal-sponsored efforts/requirements
- inability to rehabilitate the property prior to elevation
- estimated timeline to complete elevation through the program
- damage appraisals (pre-storm and post-storm).

7. Next Meeting

May 8, 2025, at 9:30 a.m., to be held at Bradenton City Hall.

8. Adjournment

President Bishop adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

President B.J. Bishop

Minutes Approved: _____

Submitted by: Stephanie Garcia, CMC, FCRM, CBTO
Town of Longboat Key

Note: Minutes are in draft form until approved by the Board of Manasota League of Cities.