

ST JOHNS COUNTY CIVIC ROUNDTABLE
MINUTES OF MEETING

December 8, 2014

The meeting was called to order by President Lofgren at 9:00 am.

The minutes of the November 10, 2014 meeting were accepted as read.

The Treasurer reported a balance of \$1530.44 with 12 paid members. She announced that we will have new membership packages available next month.

President Lofgren introduced Sherry Duval, founder and President of Canine for Warriors. Also introduced was Rory Diamond, executive director and Matt Massingal and his dog Dozier.

Sherry spoke on the Warriors. It is a relatively new charity with a mission to provide dogs to veterans subsequent to 9/11 who suffer from Stress Disorder. Canine for Warriors has had a 100% success rate with those in the program. They have just been given a new facility in Nocatee which will allow them to expand their program from 5 warriors to 16. The program provides a three week in-house stay at their facility. All dogs are obtained from shelters. There are over 500 volunteers in the program. The program spends 94% of all monies collected on the warriors. The dogs are selected by a trained animal handler and are trained to become service dogs. They become constant companions to the warriors.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

1. Bill McCormick discussed the committee he and Doug Worth were in which was looking into the financing issues of the County. He suggested that the Civic Roundtable meet with the editor of the Saint Augustine Record to establish a relationship in order to publicize our work on this issue. A motion to do this was made and approved. Doug stated that we needed to have a reality check on issues before speaking on them.
2. Jerry Cameron reviewed past financial actions to conserve funds. He stated that the county government wished to deliver the services the people want however there needed to be a willingness to pay for these services. He also stated that there had been no progress on getting the VA to move from the

old county health complex.

3. Cyndi Stevenson, County Commissioner, was excited about the effort of the Roundtable to address County budget issues. She reviewed the past County efforts to address budget issues.
4. Ellen Whitmore discussed the JEA issue of using money from St. Johns County customers to subsidize retirement pensions for Jacksonville employees.
5. Handley Carroway related an incident in Saint Augustine South where a pit bull dog attacked and killed another dog.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am

Respectfully submitted

Ed Olsen - Secretary