

ST JOHNS COUNTY CIVIC ROUNDTABLE

MINUTES OF MEETING

November 10, 2014

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

The minutes of the October 13, 2014 meeting were accepted as read.

The treasurer reported a balance of \$1431.69 with 10 paid members

President Lofgren introduced Ms. Judith Dembowski, Executive Director of St. Francis House and Ms. Karen Heusel, Assistant Director.

Judith stated that St. Francis House has three major programs:

1. Soup Kitchen – This kitchen serves three meals a day to around 85-100 persons. In addition it distributes food boxes to needy families once a month from it's food pantry. It also has a fresh start program where the chef from First Coast Technical College comes and gives basic training to homeless persons.
2. Emergency Shelter – This is a dormitory style shelter for up to 16 men and 8 women. People staying in this shelter must be willing to work with a case worker and set goals to find a home and get a job.
3. Transitional living – This is a shelter for 16 adults which enables them to transition from homelessness to living independently. It provides a transitional home for 18-24 months. Also there is a family shelter which provides a temporary home for up to 5 families. To qualify, residents

must have a valid I.D. and at least one child. They also must be willing to work with a case worker.

St. Francis House has a staff of 16 and receives funding from a variety of sources. The County department of H.H.S. provides funding as well as H.U.D. The majority of funding comes from the community - churches, Rotary, etc.

Judy also discussed the St Francis's working with Home Again Saint Johns in developing a larger shelter facility for the homeless.

General Discussion

1. Jim Walters – Jim spoke of the good response a citizen received from the county staff regarding a problem she was having getting a barrier built to control erosion.

2. Sarah Bailey – Sarah discussed F.P.L.'s using ratepayer funds to fight the Florida clean water act.

3. Bill McCormick – Bill introduced John Pilecki who volunteered to do publicity for the Roundtable. Bill also discussed the County financial situation and the possibility of a sales tax increase. Bill agreed to head up a sub-committee to investigate this issue.

It was announced that the Palm Valley Boat Parade will be held on December 6, 2014.

President Lofgren announced that the speaker for the December meeting would be Shari Duval, who is with the K9s ForWarriors project.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 am.

Respectfully submitted

Ed Olsen

Secretary