

## Sarasota County Civic League Minutes August 18, 2009

In attendance: Elizabeth Boyle, Suzanne Gregory, Richard Martin, Rebecca Proctor, Alan Roddy, Susan Scott, Pandora Seibert and Margaret Sisek.

Absent: Dana Keane, Bill Russell, Joel Van Citters, Sam Rosenberg, Pam Schuneman, David Shapiro, Alexandra Sherwood, and Richard Ulrich.

Acting Chair Rebecca Proctor determined a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 4:35 PM.

The minutes of July 14, 2009 were presented for review. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Margaret Sisek and seconded by Susan Scott. The minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

### **Meeting News**

Rebecca reported that the August luncheon meeting scheduled at the Hyatt Boat House was cancelled because there were only a half dozen reservations. The Boat House requires a minimum attendance of 35 and more advance notice than what we have been used to. Kim Noyes will continue to seek a new luncheon location; suggestions are invited.

The September 9<sup>th</sup> breakfast meeting will feature a panel discussing the impact of foreclosure in our community and be moderated by attorney and board member, Elizabeth Boyle. Guests will include Chief Judge Hayworth and Anne Weintraub among others.

Property Appraiser, Bill Furst or Sheriff Tom Knight will be invited to present at the October 14<sup>th</sup> lunch meeting; the November 14<sup>th</sup> breakfast meeting will be a panel discussing the impact of stimulus funding on the community and the December lunch meeting will hopefully feature either Furst or Knight (depending on who presents in October).

### **Recruitment**

Board members further discussed membership recruitment strategies including catchy titles for our presentations. The board titled the September meeting: "Foreclosure: The Rest of the Story." ("The Dirty Secrets of Foreclosure" was a heavily-favored close second.) Other strategies mentioned: announce and make available membership information at all meetings and every opportunity, and to issue more and regular press releases regarding meetings, etcetera.

Discussion ensued regarding Kim's scope of services and the need for better press relations as a means of boosting attendance. Suzanne Gregory will speak with Bill and Kim regarding scope of services.

In a related matter, Alan Roddy commented that he found the website was often not up-to-date with agendas, minutes, President's Message, etc. Board members discussed suggested that a member be recruited to post minutes, meetings and current news to the website rather than have it be a President's duty. Suzanne commented that she will work with Kim to determine how far in advance of the meeting the President's Message is due and communicate that information to Bill Russell.

Suzanne, Susan Scott and Margaret Sisek reported they met with David Klement of the Institute for Public Policy and Leadership at Sarasota-Manatee USF to discuss co-hosting the 2010 Candidate's School. They recommended to the board that the Civic League co-host the 2010 school with IPPL. The plan is to expand the school to include both Manatee and Sarasota residents. The Chamber of Commerce in both counties will be contacted to secure support and/or sponsorship. The school is planned for late January 2010. The committee will continue discussions and report to the board at the next meeting on September 15, 2009.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, Rebecca adjourned the meeting at 5:30 PM.