

CONCERNED TAXPAYERS OF DUVAL COUNTY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
DECEMBER 2009

Board of Directors (BOD) meeting of the Concerned Taxpayers of Duval County

Monday, 14 December 2010

6:30 PM

MEETING MINUTES FOR DECEMBER 2010

BOD members and officers present:

John Winkle, President

Joe Andrews, Treasurer

Curtis Wolfe, Secretary (Absent)

Victor Wilhelm, BOD (substitute secretary)

Conrad Markle, BOD

Scott McNaughton, BOD

Others in attendance

Tony Bates

Durwin Davis

James Jenson

Dave Smith

A quorum was achieved at 6:25 PM

NEW MEMBERS

Durwin Davis submitted an application and \$10 in person. Victor Wilhelm moved that Mr. Davis' membership to CTDC be approved. Without objection the BOD accepted the membership of Mr. Davis.

Roma Cox submitted an application via United States Postal Service (USPS) along with \$10. Victor Wilhelm moved that Ms. Cox's membership to CTDC be approved. Without objection, the BOD accepted the membership of Ms. Cox.

Stan Swart submitted an application via USPS along with \$10. Discussion was held concerning Mr. Swart's prior postings to the CTDC email group.

Several BOD members expressed concern about the potential for censorship. The consensus of the BOD was that the business of CTDC and its email group is for local issues. It was also the consensus that the email group should not be used to make slanderous, inflammatory, or personal attacks. It was noted that membership expired for all members at the end of the calendar year. It was noted that the communications are monitored and violation of the email policy could be moderated and a member's ability to use this privilege removed. The president noted that he and others have advised prior "offenders" of their inappropriate use of the email group. It was also

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noted that infringement of the local issue policy was occurring from both the “right” and the “left”.

John Winkler moved that Mr. Swarts membership to CTDC be approved. The vote was held as 3-2. The membership of Mr. Swart to CTDC was accepted.

Secretary’s minutes from November’s meeting were approved without objection.

Treasurer’s report was accepted without objection. Treasurer noted that paypal is working.

Special Committee Reports

- Growth

Nothing to report.

- Charter Review Commission.

They are meeting weekly. Subject of the Office of Counsel comes up a lot. Should CTDC take an issue on appointed vs. elected officials, particularly constitutional officers?

- Ethics Commission

Jack Web did not show up to the ethics commission’s invitation to appear concerning the Trail Ridge Landfill issue.

- Code Enforcement

Needs ombudsmen to arbitrate disputes.

- Three Fees/Taxes

City Council passed a bill to place the stormwater and garbage tax bill on the property tax assessment. Victor Wilhelm expressed that the only politically viable option of removing the taxes would involve a revenue neutral increase in millage to undo the fees and that this did not have the consensus of the BOD. Without a viable strategy to implement, progress on undoing the new taxes would be difficult.

- Web and TV show

Tony Bates is looking for people to appear. Would like to get some Democrats to appear.

- Budget Review 2010

Adam Hollingsworth and Kerri Stewart from the mayor’s staff are available for a delegation of CTDC members to meet with to offer suggestions on how to make the budget process more open. Tony Bates would arrange this meeting.

Current members of this committee are:

Curtis Wolfe, Victor Wilhelm, John Winkler, George Hall, Conrad Markle and Tony Bates

The City of Nashville Tennessee has a website that is good at transparency.

Old Business

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- Lawsuit Concerning Trail Ridge Landfill

Legal counsel advised not to take action on the City's motion to dismiss as our suite will likely be dismissed, as the city currently does not have legislation concerning the Trail Ridge landfill pending. The BOD noted that part of the issue is the Council's ability to waive procurement policy. It was also noted the inherent conflict of interest that is presented by the Office of Counsel representing the Mayor's Office and City Council simultaneously on the same issue.

- JEDC

An audit of the JEDC's activities was mentioned as unfinished old business. Not action had been taken on obtaining records of the JEDC's specific measures such as cash grants provided, jobs promised, jobs created, salaries of jobs created, life span of job, property tax forgiven, property tax foregone, etc.

Tony said that JEDC would likely need a City Council person to direct the JEDC to provide this information.

Victor Wilhelm said that he would talk with Clay Yarborough about sponsoring this activity.

- Charter Review Commission

Concern was expressed with the frequency that City Council waived policy and passed measures under "emergency" provisions. Dave Smith said that he would do a search to quantify how often this occurs and report back to the BOD.

Discussion was held on whether to weigh in on appointed vs. elected officials.

Conrad Markle, Joe Andrews and Dave Smith said that they would continue to report on the Charter Commissions activities.

#### New Business

Slate of new officers to be presented to the membership for the January meeting had not been formed. A nomination committee was formed consisting of: Victor Wilhelm, Scott McNaughton, Dave Smith, Conrad Markel and John Winkler.

Motion to adjourn,

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM