



Suncoast League of Cities  
March Business Meeting  
**Minutes**

The meeting was called to order at 11:55 am by Alan Bildz, President. Alan Bildz introduces Dunedin Vice Mayor and Commissioner Heathy Gracy. Heather welcomes everyone to Dunedin and to this beautiful Fine Arts Center. She Introduces Commissioner Bruce Livingston, Commissioner Deborah Kynes, and Commissioner John Tornga. Alan asked each person to introduce themselves. After the introductions, Alan Bildz conducted the invocation and pledge of allegiance and invited everyone to eat lunch.

**Guest Speakers**

Alan Bildz introduces Bill Byrne, President of Ajax Building Corporation. He discussed a different delivery method of services for construction companies. 90% of their work is public sector. In the new construction management model, everyone on a project is brought on board at the same time to allow for growth together as a team. Cost savings in this model: guaranteed maximum price, value engineering, design documents review-eliminates errors, omissions, and overlaps. Bid Management: Encourages local subcontractors and includes scope of work, schedules, and manpower in bids/contracts. The selection process for contractors is: RFQ, review proposals, negotiate, contract. Rob DiSpirito of Dunedin asks about how and when the budgets are constructed and managed. Bill Byrne says varies depending on the stage of the design depending on the flexibility and size of the job. John Carroll said he had the ability to witness two types of constructions projects he fully supports this model.

Alan Bildz then introduced Gill Ziffer, Commissioner from Tallahassee. Gil is running for second VP of the Florida League of Cities. Alan endorses for two reasons. He's running unopposed and he's here to give a presentation about his campaign. Gil Ziffer also offers support of Ajax Building Corporation. He offers to answer any questions people may have about his campaign. He offers his advocacy and support for the Sun coast League of Cities at any time. Jim Quinn comments to Gil Ziffer that he doesn't understand with the Florida League of Cities represents 95% of the residents in FL, but does not have a bigger voice in Tallahassee. He continues to say the FLC should have a bigger stake because they do not listen unless somebody pokes them in the eye. Gil Ziffer says to Jim Quinn that if he gives him boxing gloves, everyone in the room needs boxing gloves. The league does a great job getting emails out, but local leagues needs to do more. Jim Quinn says he gets emails from Angela to make calls and he does.

Jack Nazario asks Gil Ziffer about what priorities he will work on a few years from now. Terry Lister asks Ziffer his thoughts on how do we get more local pull in the FLC? Alan Bildz says the league does a great job as an advocacy organization, but we as individuals need to be making calls and advocating for what

we need. Jack Nazario says the local citizens here need to know what our role is-to advocate in Tallahassee.

Alan Bildz introduces Kathy Till, Advocacy Coordinator for the Florida League of Cities. She thanks everyone who was able to participate in Legislative Action Days with the league in Tallahassee last week. She said everyone's time there really matters. She said if you don't tell people your position, you give them permission to go the other way. She gives a brief legislative update: Every week there is a conference call and they can hear from the lobbyists about what issues they will be working on that week and what the status is. She encourages everyone to participate. Every Friday they will get the weekly blog to give the insider vantage point for what's going on in Tallahassee. The legislative bulletin comes out every Friday during session that highlights whether the league supports or opposes bills and the status of each bill. The Policy Committee pages on the website has all of the details and talking points and who to contact. She encourages everyone to follow them on Twitter and participate!

She reviews some of the high priority items for the FLC. Pension reform is a big one and the FLC does not support the pension reform bill in the house right now, but the FLC supports the same/amended bill in the house-bill 341. The FLC message to legislators in the house is to support the bill as amended and get the bill to the senate. The senate and house have both passed comprehensive water bills. FLC supports the house bill which has passed and it's over in the senate. Homelessness bills have not gotten any momentum. They do have money in the budget for the challenge grants for the upcoming year, but they bills have not been heard yet in their respective committees. She discusses utilities legislation-this shifts burden of relocation costs to the cities. Right now cities are not responsible. Sober homes legislation-they are moving very quickly and that legislation is going to pass this year. Creates a voluntary patient program that operates sober homes that require inspections and backgrounds on employee. Facilities are not allowed to advertise unless they pass qualifications. Jack Nazario asks if she has an update on Vacation Homes legislation. Kathy Till responded saying there are two bills out there, but they unfortunately do not have any momentum.

### **President's Report**

Alan Bildz requests approval of the February meeting minutes. Jack Nazario approves, Jim Quinn seconds. The minutes are anonymously approved.

Alan Bildz provided a financial update. He says the expenses were cut by \$15,000. Cash on hand has increased by 6,000. Alan asks Jack Narazio for a report on new members, he says he will have the report

Alan Bildz made an announcement about the annual awards dinner as a reminder to all. Angela Crist, Executive Director of the Suncoast League, discussed the advocacy trip to Tallahassee the previous week. She thanked all of those that came and participated. She reports that the League met with various legislators while in Tallahassee.

Kathy Till of the Florida League of Cities urges individuals to stop by the Florida League of Citifies' offices if you're going to Tallahassee with anyone in a different capacity. She also asks that when individuals communicate with legislators, *please* let the FLC know by copying them onto emails and

communications. This is so when the FLC lobbyists speak with legislators, they will know what conversations have transpired.

Angela Crist announces that the legislative session for 2016 has been moved to January. Policy committee meetings will be held June 26 and July 17 and they will vote on SLC's legislative priorities at that time of the annual conference. Angela Crist announces that last year for the first time we turned the SLC annual conference into a dinner to recognize legislators. This year it is May 16<sup>th</sup>-will be at the St Pete Yacht Club. She says the League will make recommendations for legislators of the year. We do look at federal and state level for these nominations. Tom Shelly says at the federal level they are considering David Jolly because he's done a lot for flood insurance on a bi partisan basis. Senator Arthenia Joyner is nominated for the lifetime achievement award. Tom Shelly makes a motion in favor of these nominations. Jack Nazario approves, Jim Quinn seconds.

Terry Lister and Heather Gracy nominate Commissioner Arthur Penny from the City of South Pasadena. The Nominating committee is Alan Bildz, Tom Shelly, and Thom Barhnhorn.

Tom Shelly reminds everyone that ethics training is happening next month before the April business meeting. Angela Crist says individuals have until December 31 to get in the requirement for this training. We will offer another one in the fall probably at St. Pete Beach. We are offering it for free.

Alan Bildz opened the floor to old business and new business. There is no old or new business.

**Announcements:**

Alan Bildz announces that there is a Rotatory event in Treasure Island this weekend if anyone is interested in attended. He extends his thanks to the City of Dunedin! Meeting adjourned at 1:30 pm