

**MINUTES  
MANASOTA LEAGUE OF CITIES  
REGULAR MEETING  
July 14, 2016**

**Present:** President Linda Yates (North Port), Treasurer Kit McKeon (Venice), Commissioner Carol Carter (Anna Maria), Councilman Patrick Roff (Bradenton), Commissioner Jean Peelen (Holmes Beach), Commissioner Irwin Pastor (Longboat Key), Commissioner Harold Smith, Alternate (Palmetto), Mayor Willie Shaw (Sarasota), Mayor William Shearon (Bradenton Beach)

**Also Present:** Administrative Coordinator Trish Granger and Assistant Administrative Coordinator Gail Loeffler

**CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

President Yates called the July 14, 2016, Regular Meeting of the ManaSota League of Cities (MSLC) to order at 9:34 a.m. in the Town of Longboat Key Commission Chamber, 501 Bay Isles Road, Longboat Key, Florida, and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Members of the audience were recognized and Board members introduced themselves. President Yates noted that Palmetto City Commissioner Harold Smith was attending as an Alternate for Vice President Williams.

**PUBLIC INPUT**

1. Opportunity for Public to Address Board: No items were presented.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

2. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 12, 2016 and Special Meeting June 16, 2016  
**Treasurer McKeon moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 12, 2016, and Special Meeting of June 16, 2016. The motion, seconded by Member Shaw, carried unanimously on a voice vote.**

**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

3. Legislative Update – Senator Bill Galvano, Florida Senate, District 26  
President Yates commented that Senator Bill Galvano was unable to attend the meeting due to a scheduling conflict.

4. Legislative Update – Representative Julio Gonzalez, Florida House of Representatives, District 74  
Representative Gonzalez provided an overview of the 2016 Florida Legislative Session and commented on legislative issues likely to be considered in the 2017 session.

Discussions were held on the following topics/issues:

- Workman’s Compensation safeguards and maintaining low premiums
- mental health, drug use issues, and homelessness
- water issues, Lake Okeechobee algae blooms, State acquisition of environmentally sensitive lands, and conversion from septic tanks to sewer systems.

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**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS** - Continued

**4. Legislative Update – Representative Julio Gonzalez, Florida House of Representatives, District 74 - Continued**

Representative Gonzalez commented on the anticipated major legislative priorities of incoming Florida Senate President Joe Negron and discussions were held on the following future legislative priorities of the Manasota League of Cities (MSLC):

- local government authority to regulate vacation rental homes
- water concerns and Lake Okeechobee algae bloom intrusion into Gulf and local waters
- mental health funding and programs
- protection and purchase of environmentally sensitive lands
- funding of Firefighter and Police Officer pension plans
- infrastructure needs and environmental issues caused by increased tourism
- House Bill (HB) 1021 filed by Representative Greg Steube in the 2016 Legislative Session that addressed awarding of attorney fees in public records law suits.

President Yates thanked Representative Gonzalez for his efforts with the Utility Relocation bill, and Representative Gonzalez commended President Yates for her lobbying efforts and activism in passage of legislation regulating backyard gun ranges.

Members thanked Representative Gonzalez for his presentation.

**5. Legislative issues for 2017 – Legislative Director Scott Dudley, FLC**

Florida League of Cities (FLC) Legislative Director Scott Dudley expressed appreciation to Representative Gonzalez for his presentation, and commented that FLC was formed to advocate for municipalities and local government issues.

Mr. Dudley presented FLC Home Rule Hero Awards to Councilman Patrick Roff and Mayor Willie Charles Shaw for their advocacy efforts.

Mr. Dudley presented information about FLC legislative priorities for the 2017 Legislative Session and discussions were held on the following topics/issues:

- water concerns, Lake Okeechobee algae bloom intrusion, septic tanks, and regulation of fertilizer usage
- local government authority to regulate vacation rental properties
- protection and purchase of environmentally sensitive lands
- regulation of transportation network companies such as Uber and Lyft
- role of local government to regulate commercial drones
- transportation issues and funding to replace aging infrastructure
- Workers' Compensation insurance costs
- variety of gun issues
- oil fracking and governance by local government land decisions
- encouraging use of reclaimed water when appropriate
- local government contracts with waste collection and recycling companies
- local level citizen input on Community Redevelopment Areas (CRA), economic development, and incentive programs

**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS** - Continued

**5. Legislative issues for 2017 – Legislative Director Scott Dudley, FLC - Continued**

- sales tax on commercial leases
- homestead assessment issues
- encouraging citizens to learn about candidates running for local office.

Mr. Dudley commented on the following topics/issues:

- FLC Annual Conference of August 18-20, 2016 in Hollywood, Florida
- encourage members to sign up for the FLC policy committees
- FLC FAST-Fly-in to Washington, D.C. on August 14-15, 2016
- Florida Legislative session begins March 7, 2017
- FLC Legislative Action Days scheduled for March 2017.

Discussions were held on the following topics/issues:

- Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council (SWFRPC) input on preserving water resources
- Florida sugar industry role in water issues
- regional organizations and government collaboration to discuss water issues
- detrimental effect of legislative initiative to change local election dates
- expansion of Tourist Development funding to include more communities
- Enterprise Florida history and purpose.

(Note: Member Shaw left the meeting at 10:55 a.m.)

**REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

**6. Reports**

**A. Associate Members or Ex-Officio Members:** No items were presented.

**B. President's Report**

President Yates commented that she received and accepted an invitation to represent the ManaSota League of Cities (MSLC) on the Resolutions Committee at the Florida League of Cities (FLC) Annual Conference.

**C. Vice President's Report:** No items were presented.

**D. Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer McKeon referred to a MSLC financial statement and reported the Edward Jones account balance as of June 1, 2016, was \$32,151.86.

**E. Administrative Coordinator's Report**

Administrative Coordinator Granger provided an update on the FLC/MSLC Florida Senate District 23 Candidate Interview forum, and discussed the following topics/issues:

- forum scheduled for July 19, 2016, Sarasota City Hall, from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.
- FLC would pay full cost of morning refreshments and would split the cost of the lunch with the MSLC

**REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS** - Continued

**6. Reports** - Continued

**E. Administrative Coordinator's Report** - Continued

- Town of Longboat Key would expend funds for purchase of refreshment/lunch and seek MSLC reimbursement
- all seven candidates for Senate District 23 committed to participate.

**F. Florida League of Cities' (FLC) Board of Directors**

District Director Roff discussed the following topics/issues:

- attended a Board of Directors meeting in Jupiter, Florida, to discuss FLC budget
- FLC is a non-profit organization that is financially sound/insurance division and investments are funding sources
- Florida's Constitution Revision Commission (CRC) would be meeting next year to review and recommend changes to the Florida Constitution
- CRC board composition and authority
- need to work with FLC to have input about CRC appointments and topics to be discussed.

**G. Advocacy Report:** No items were presented.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**7. Discussion Re: Sponsorship of local educational classes, ethics training, and social events – President Yates**

President Yates commented that a request was made at the last meeting to discuss the possibility of the ManaSota League of Cities (MSLC) sponsoring local educational classes and social events. Discussions were held on the following topics/issues:

- a DVD of an Ethics seminar held by Manatee County was available and could be provided by Administrative Coordinator Granger, if requested
- Manatee County Ethics training DVD would meet the 4 hour education requirement
- MSLC could prepare a certificate for members documenting that the Ethics class was taken
- option to post Manatee County seminar video on the Town of Longboat Key MSLC web page if approved by Manatee County.

**There was consensus to continue discussion on sponsorship of education classes, including Ethics, on a future agenda.**

Member Peelen commented it would be helpful if the FLC would offer classes for newly elected members of Commissions/Councils.

**Subsequent to discussion, there was consensus if member municipalities have developed training programs or requirements for newly elected officials, that sharing the information would be helpful, and to place the topic on the September 8, 2016, meeting agenda.**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** - Continued

**8. Review of Travel Policy – President Yates**

President Yates commented the topic was placed on the agenda to discuss the ManaSota League of Cities (MSLC) Travel Policy regarding payment of travel expenses for members who participate in the Florida League of Cities (FLC) Legislative Action Days, FLC Annual Conference, and other events, meetings, or committees and reviewed the current Travel Policy. Discussions were held on the following topics/issues:

- maintain a reserve fund for future legislative travel needs
- utilizing city travel budgets to attend the FLC Conference when possible
- ability of members to request approval in advance to attend a function
- authorize travel expense payment for members who serve on FLC Boards and Committees and participate in functions and events on behalf of MSLC.

**Subsequent to discussion, there was consensus for President Yates to work with Administrative Coordinator Granger to draft changes to the Travel Policy as discussed and place the topic on the next meeting agenda.**

**9. Continued Discussion Re: 2017 Legislative Priorities – President Yates**

President Yates suggested members take into consideration information presented by Representative Gonzalez and Florida League of Cities representative Scott Dudley regarding legislative issues for next session, and discussion would continue at the next meeting.

**There was consensus to defer discussion on legislative priorities until the September 8, 2016, meeting.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**10. Participation in FLC Conference Breakfast Meetings – President Yates**

President Yates commented that the ManaSota League of Cities (MSLC) received an invitation to participate in a Super Regional League Breakfast Meeting at the Florida League of Cities (FLC) Annual Conference. Discussions were held on the following topics/issues:

- cost for MSLC to host a Breakfast Meeting independently would be expensive
- Bright House Communications would once again sponsor the Super Regional League Breakfast at no cost to participants
- MSLC participated in Super Regional League Breakfast meetings in recent years
- members would be required to RSVP directly to FLC to attend.

**There was consensus to accept an invitation to participate in a Super Regional League Breakfast Meeting at the FLC Annual Conference.**

Discussion ensued concerning Legislative Policy Committee meeting schedules during the FLC Annual Conference.

**NEW BUSINESS**- Continued

11. Distribution of meeting agendas by email – Administrative Coordinator Granger  
Administrative Coordinator Granger requested approval to move to electronic distribution of the ManaSota League of Cities (MSLC) meeting notices and agenda packets by e-mail and discontinue paper mailings.

**Member Roff moved to approve the request that future MSLC meeting notices and agenda packets be sent by e-mail distribution instead of postal mail. The motion, seconded by Member Peelen, carried unanimously on a voice vote.**

**MEMBER COMMENTS**

12. Member Comments

President Yates reminded the Board of the Senate District 23 Candidate Interview forum on July 19, 2016, in Sarasota City Commission Chambers. Administrative Coordinator Granger commented July 15, 2016, was the deadline for submitting questions to the Florida League of Cities for inclusion in the interview forum.

**MEETING SCHEDULE**

13. Next Meeting

Next meeting date was scheduled for September 8, 2016.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**President Yates adjourned the July 14, 2016, meeting at 11:26 a.m.**

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Linda Yates, President

Submitted by: Gail Loeffler, Assistant Administrative Coordinator

Minutes Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

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