



Duval County Legislative Delegation

Minutes
Organizational Meeting
and General Public Hearing
Wednesday, November 20, 2013
117 W. Duval Street, Council Chambers

Chairman, Representative McBurney called the meeting to order at 2:08 p.m., followed by the invocation and pledge.

Members present: Senators Bean and Gibson; Representatives: Adkins, Davis, Fullwood, Jones and McBurney Excused: Representative Ray

A quorum was present. The agenda was adopted unanimously by voice vote. Introductions were made.

Representative McBurney opened the floor for nominations of Chair of the delegation and recognized Senator Bean, who nominated the Representative Davis. There being no further nominations, Representative Davis was elected unanimously as Chair.

Representative McBurney the opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chair of the delegation and recognized Senator Bean, who nominated the Representative Fullwood. There being no further nominations, Representative Fullwood was elected unanimously as Chair.

Representative McBurney thanked the members for working with him, he then passed the gavel to the new Chair, Representative Davis, who led the meeting.

A motion was made to open discussion on a resolution regarding the ST. JOHNS RIVER FERRY RESOLUTION. Elaine Brown advised she was her as an information purposes. The resolution passed unanimously on a voice vote.

SPEAKERS:

Mayor Alvin Brown has only three requests: 1) work together to grow the economy - support for investment in the television and film industry and 2) no unfunded mandates and 3) support for the governance of the Police and Fire Pension Fund legislation.

Ed Burr, Florida State University – FSU Board of Trustees, discussed higher education specifically tuition, quality of education and the graduates economic impact.

Nathaniel P. Ford, Sr, JTA – discussed maintaining transportation funding. They support the St. Johns River Ferry and have contributed \$200,000, towards maintenance and requested support commuter rail development.

Michael D. Stewart, JAA – provided an overview of an upcoming project at Cecil Airport and Spaceport Development.

Brian Taylor, CEO, Jaxport – discussed the recognized value of the port and the investment in maritime infrastructure for items such as Mile Point navigational project, the development of intermodal container transfer facility and berth improvements.

Dr. Nikolai Vitti, Superintendent of Duval County Public Schools – discussed the educational legislative platform. There is a workshop scheduled and additional material will be provided.

Mark Middlebrook, St. Johns River Alliance – discussed the health of the St. Johns River and water quality.

Dr. Kelli Wells, Florida Department Of Health In Duval County – provided an overview of the Department's functions, issues and plans.

Todd Roobin, Jacksonville Film and Television Office – requested continued support for the program and the return on investment.

John Keane, Police and Fire Pension Fund – requested support for House Bill 117 and Senate Bill 388.

James D. Clark, Daniel Memorial – announced that Daniel is the oldest children's agency in Florida – they are 130 years old. He provided facts and figures relating to Daniel.

Jennifer Chapman and Theresa Little, Early Learning Coalition of Duval – discussed their mission and the legislative priorities.

John Shellhorn, City of Jacksonville - Environmental Quality Division, Acting Chief, discussed water quality and quantity issues and the impact to Jacksonville.

James Richardson, Program Administrator of Environmental Protection Board – outlined their legislative priorities.

Leon Baxton, Communities In Schools of Jacksonville, explained their four main initiatives as detailed in the handout.

Brian Delburn, Florida Department of Transportation requested the members continue to let him assist them and their staff with constituent issues.

Dr. Brenda Simmons-Hutchins, Chair of Jacksonville Public Library Board, discussed state aid and funding for libraries and the importance of libraries.

Jim Kowalski, Executive Director, Jacksonville Area Legal Aid, Inc. discussed the materials provided and the city budget.

Melanie McClendon, The Art Institute of Jacksonville discussed funding for private colleges and universities and the FRAG and ABLE grants.

Penny Thompson, UF Health Jacksonville who provided a Powerpoint presentation and Medicaid expansion and the need of UF Health.

Elizabeth Brown, Volunteers In Medicine discussed their mission and are asking for help with legislation with sovereign immunity and streamlining the out of state license process.

Shannon Nazworth, Ability Housing of Northeast Florida requested help for special needs households and their housing needs.

Jon Heymann, CEO/Executive Director, Jacksonville Children's Commission discussed children's initiatives and support for healthy families program and violence - bullying and drugs.

Lisa Rinaman, St. Johns Riverkeeper reported on the health of the St. Johns River and support restoration dollars and water quality and their concerns with the proposed dredging.

Dianne L. Larson, Equal Rights Amendment Alliance – requested support for the ERA bill and the benefits of the legislation.

Dr. David Wood, University of Florida College of Medicine, discussed the complications associated with the health of children and their transition to adulthood and funding for the expansion of the JAXHATS Program.

Dr. Mark Hudak, University of Florida College of Medicine, spoke about two cost savings initiatives 1) a clinic for medically complex child who have significant health care needs and 2) care for children who graduate into adulthood who have heart disease, who lose their insurance.

Dr. Sunil Joshi, American Lung Association presented the advocacy agenda on preventing and improving lung health in Florida.

Robert Carlton requested support for the Concrete Masonry Education Act, House Bill 147 and Senate Bill 286 to continue Florida's economic recovery.

Michael Milliken, Florida Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program, asked the member support House Bill 91 regarding long term care facility beds.

Margaret McGauley, Child Protection Team Advisory Council, requested an increase in \$3.2 million for all 25 CPT programs across the state.

Trey Csar, President, Jacksonville Public Education Fund discussed common core state standards

Lauri Ramsey discussed the material she provided to the members.

Herb Hiller, East Coast Greenway Alliance provided a map of the maps where the trails are available, gaps in the trail and the benefits for tourists. They are seeking a partnership and funding to complete this project.

Jim Whittaker, Arc Duval provided a progress report for the Arc Village.

Elexia Moss, Jacksonville Kids Coalition explained issues relating to children and the programs available.

Linda Levin, Eldersource discussed the legislative priorities for the aging population.

Kay Redington, Ceo, Alzheimer's Association Of Central & North Florida, spoke about Alzheimer's Association.

Javan Frinks, Justice 4 Jacksonville, explained his handout.

Carlos Ramos, ACLU – Human Trafficking discussed issues relating to immigration and human trafficking.

Natishia Stevens, ACLU – discussed juvenile justice issues

Dr. Leroy Polite, Economy Dentures, requested support for HB 27 relating to cost effective health care as it relates to dental health.

Theresa Thweatt Rulien, Child Guidance Center, discussed the services provided and the community impact.

Melissa Covey, Tobacco, Free Jacksonville Coalition, Inc. spoke about initiatives relating to tobacco use and e-cigarettes.

Kim Jowers, Us Green Building Council discussed her handout regarding effort to advance initiatives in the region.

Ryan Chandler, Association of Support Coordination Agencies requested an adjustment in the rates as detailed in his handout.

Travis Christensen, Republican Liberty Caucus of Florida discussed his handout with the legislative agenda

Bruce Ganger, Second Harvest North Florida

Robert A. Jones, explained the importance of the White Cane Law

Jack Dodge, discussed funding for Disability Transportation

Jon Macak spoke in support for Step Up For Students

Ophelia Webb – Step up for Students

Molly Turner – step Up for students

Ysryl spoke regarding youth programs

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 5:13 p.m.

This is not a verbatim transcript but a summary of the proceedings. A recording is on file in the delegation office and posted online on the delegation website.