

Recap of the Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting August 26, 2016

The August 26, 2016, Hillsborough County Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting was called to order by Chair Lowry at 8:30 a.m. CAC members in attendance were: Chair Lee Lowry, Vice Chair Kay Doughty, Spencer Kass, Joseph Pullara, Joe Caetano, Linda Porter, Cristan Fadal, Joe Wicker, Roia Barrios and Ron Govin. CAC members absent were: Adam Bantner, Barbara Aderhold, and Wendell Duggins. A quorum was present. County staff in attendance: Beth Cardenas.

The Pledge of Allegiance and an explanation of the role and responsibilities of the CAC were given.

Public Comment #1: None.

Meeting Recap: The July 22, 2016 meeting recap was reviewed and approved.

Presentation on Sunshine Law: Mary Helen Farris, General Counsel to the County Attorney's Office presented on Sunshine Law. She discussed the requirements under Sunshine Law, and expanded upon the evolving use of social media. She also explained noticing and minutes required. Mr. Kass and Mr. Wicker asked clarifying questions as to the use of social media and the location requirements of a public meeting. Ms. Farris also discussed best practices with email.

Discussion of Other Business: The CAC discussed letters regarding FEMA flood maps, medical marijuana, and TECO rates.

- Regarding the FEMA letter, there was discussion as to the recommendation for language in a mailer. Mr. Kass requested that the letter include a request for the County to work with the City, and that a letter or postcard be sent with language stating "Urgent – your rates may increase." Following discussion, this mailer will be discussed in the letter as an example. Upon motion by Mr. Kass and seconded by Mr. Wicker, the letter, pending revision, was unanimously approved.
- Regarding the TECO letter, Mr. Kass commented that rates should be reasonably calculated and requests that County staff attend the rate hearing. Upon motion by Mr. Kass and seconded by Ms. Porter, the letter, pending revision, was unanimously approved.
- Regarding the medical marijuana letter, Mr. Kass commented that it should be added that the CAC recommends the County and Cities work together on the issue and indicate that they have written to the various entities. Upon motion by Mr. Kass and seconded by Mr. Wicker, the letter, pending revision, was unanimously approved.
- Mr. Wicker asked for clarification of active recruitment in vacant positions. Mr. Tom Fesler, Budget Director, provided an explanation of the term.
- The CAC discussed questions pertaining to the process of questions and answers for the budget and additional topics.
- The CAC discussed robo-calls for snipe signs. Upon motion by Mr. Kass and seconded by Ms. Doughty, the CAC requested a letter go to the board requesting the use of robo-calls on snipe signs placed by for profit out of County businesses.

Budget Review Process Outlining: The consultants, Robert Garner, Dr. Barbara Bennington, and Dr. Eric Eisenberg introduced themselves. Dr. Eisenberg gave an introduction to processing and their roles, and set forth a three step plan, including an education of the overall budget, a deeper dive into certain sections of the budget, and finally, recommendations and conclusions. Mr. Kass discussed a desire to begin at revenues. Mr. Wicker spoke to the need for transportation funding. Dr. Eisenberg and the CAC discussed what a successful outcome of this process would be.

The CAC agreed to the following additional meeting dates: September 9, October 21, and December 9. Mr. Wicker motioned and Mr. Kass seconded for the additional dates.

Presentation on the Budget: Tom Fesler, Budget Director gave an overview presentation on the budget components. Mr. Fesler explained transfers, reserves, programs funded by restricted sources, transportation, capital improvement program, constitutional officers and boards, non-departmental funds, and the County

Administrator departments. The CAC commented on the presentation of the budget and ways to allow the general citizen to better understand it. Recommendations included: removing pass-throughs and presenting the cash budget, as opposed to the full budget. Mr. Kass raised the issue of some counties being allowed to use bed tax for law enforcement. He requested information on those areas of the budget that could be changed, including those that would require legislative change. Mr. Fesler spoke to budgeting for operational costs for capital improvement projects under construction. Mr. Fesler discussed the Constitutional Officers. Mr. Fadal expressed an interest in reviewing areas with the highest budgets, such as the Sheriff's Office. Dr. Eisenberg presented an Impact – Effort Analysis to assist with prioritization.

The CAC discussed the issues they would like to focus on, and agreed to send in top three choices to staff. They discussed focusing on the areas with the largest dollar totals. The CAC discussed inviting the Sheriff's Office to the next meeting.

Next Meeting Agenda:

- Bonnie Wise is requested to discuss bonding, cash flow and debt.
- Tom Fesler offered to discuss potential revenue streams.
- Process planning and a discussion of future presentation requests.

The CAC requested from Staff:

- Line item budgeting information on a thumb drive.
- A breakdown of payment schedules on debt.

Advisory Committee Reports: None.

Public Comment #2: None.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Note: Instructions to staff are underlined