

EC approval by email

Approved

Regular SWFLC Meeting

March 28, 2024

DoubleTree 13051 Bell Tower Dr FMY FL 33907

In attendance:

President Holly D. Smith	Sanibel/Councilwoman
Vice President Joanne Ribble	Estero/Vice Mayor
Treasurer John Gunter	Cape Coral/Mayor
Secretary John King	Fort Myers Beach/Council
Past President Julie Wilkins	LaBelle/Mayor
Mayor Lynne Matthews	Punta Gorda/Mayor
Councilwoman Teresa Watkins Brown	Fort Myers/Councilmember
Councilman Greg Thompson	Clewiston/Councilman
Deputy Mayor Fred Forbes	Bonita Springs/Deputy Mayor
Councilman Terry Hutchison	Naples/Councilmember
Former Mayor Peter Simmons	Woodard & Curran-Senior Consultant
Ed Farmer	Waste Pro
Melanie Holliday	Rapid Response Team
Brandon Miller	Lumen
Former Mayor Bill Ribble	Former Estero Mayor/Candidate for School Board
Mayor Greg Ross/FLC President	Mayor of Cooper City
Mary Lou Tighe	Executive Director Broward League of Cities
Vice Mayor Mike Miller	Sanibel
Councilmember Arlene Dillon	Sanibel
Mayor Kevin Anderson	Fort Myers Mayor
Vice Mayor Bill Dryburgh	Punta Gorda/Vice Mayor
Melissa Reichert	Punta Gorda Asst City Manager
Chief Pam Davis	Punta Gorda Police Chief
Chief Holden Gibbs	Punta Gorda Fire Chief
City Clerk Sara Welch	Punta Gorda City Clerk
Councilmen Jim Ward	Village of Estero
Councilmember Rafael Lopez	Village of Estero
Councilmember Rich Carr	Cape Coral
Councilmember Bill Steinke	Cape Coral
Alex Crispin	Legislative & Legal Analyst FSW State College
Craig Trapani	CFO Jimmy Patronis Office
Jon Costello	Capital Strategy Group
Sheri Schuller	SAP Concur
Paul Moore	UDT
Michael Dest	City of Cape Coral/Communications
Commissioner Hugo Vargas	City of LaBelle
Carlo Fassi	Teco Peoples Gas System

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Mrs. Hugo Vargas

guest from LaBelle

Lisa Griggs Roberson

City of Bonita Springs

Councilwoman Laura Carr

City of Bonita Springs

11:31 a.m. President Smith called the meeting to order.

President Smith welcomed all the attendees and conducted the invocation followed by Pledge of Allegiance.

President Smith went into her brief comments, she commented on the legislative session and hurricane recovery. She thanked the Lee delegation for championing Southwest Florida. She explained how the FLC lobbying team advocates for all cities. She introduced FLC President Greg Ross and Broward League of Cities executive director Mary Lou Tighe. She also had Jon Costello of Capital Strategy Group introduce himself.

President Smith announced that the lunch was available, and all could get their meals during the business session presented by Executive Director Keesling. E.D Keesling called the roll, and a quorum was established.

President Smith called the meeting back to order and presented the action items. The first was the financial report as reviewed by Treasurer Gunter. Treasurer Gunter commented the report was accurate and moved approval. Vice President Ribble seconded the approval and the motion carried unanimously.

The second action item was the meeting minutes from January 18, 2024. Secretary King moved approval of the minutes. Councilman Hutchison seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. President Smith asked for questions on the executive directors' report, there were none. She then announced the opening of the secretary position and that Mayor Matthews had sent in a letter and resume for consideration.

President Smith introduced Greg Ross, she gave his mayoral background along with this legal career in Fort Lauderdale. She also spoke about his positions in Broward League of Cities and Florida League of Cities.

FLC President Ross took the podium to present his platform "Serving our Cities". He thanked all that were in attendance and thanked everyone for attending and advocating for their cities and working for a better Florida. He went into the fundamentals of his platform and how relationships are at the core of the way to actively govern. He emphasized the ways that people can step up to be active with intentional collaboration. He explained how to develop relationships with your state elected officials and their staff. He also explained how to make your case for your city and make your point. He made the point with the FEMA claw back policy and how FLC fought that for years and finally got the limit to 3 years. He spoke about compromise and how to find common areas where agreement can begin. he talked about how the Home Rule Hero awards are selected and how everyone can be a candidate every year. He explained how everyone can write the governor and oppose him signing bills that are opposed.

President Ross announced the Home Rule Hero honorees: for SWFLC:

Councilwoman Holly Smith, Vice Mayor Joanne Ribble, Mayor John Gunter, Deputy Mayor Fred Forbes, Councilwoman Teresa Watkins Brown, Mayor Lynne Matthews, City Manager Michael McNeas. He commented on the level of participation of the honorees and how they do more.

President Smith received her certificate and lapel pin and all honorees were called up to the stage. Photos were taken and group photo was called for after the adjournment. President Smith thanked everyone for attending and adjournment was called by President Smith at 12:59 p.m.