

APR 14 2021

Minutes for April 5, 2021

Progressive Civic League

Zoom Meeting

Attendees:

Joe Idlette, III, Freddie Woolfork, Rev. Benny Rhyant, Mary McKinney, Vera Smith, Linda Morgan, Godfrey Gipson, Natalie Sanders, Felicia Brown, Jonnie Perry, A. Ronald Hudson, Michelle Scott, Aundrea Perry, and Commissioner Moss.

Meeting started at 7:00 pm with prayer led by Freddie Woolfork. Commissioner Moss was in attendance. President Joe Idlette, III read an email that he received in reference to the water tower in Gifford. The tower is scheduled for repair and repainting in 2022. This is done every five years. He asked if we wanted Gifford to be put back on the water tower. Vincent Burke, Utility Director for the county stated that the cost to repaint would cost \$66,000 and to put Gifford on it would cost an additional \$12,000. Which is referred to as a non-standard request. Discussion was held as to what the Progressive Civic League opinion was in reference to whether we wanted to place Gifford back on the water tower. Several members asked questions and voiced their opinions. Motion was made by Dr. A. Ronald Hudson that we request Gifford be placed on the water tower. Motion was second by Mary McKinney, voted on and approved unanimously.

Commissioner Moss will look further into this matter. She asked that something in writing (letter or minutes of this meeting) be sent to her. The Progressive Civic League offered to attend County Commissioner meetings in support of placing the word Gifford on the water tower in our community. She will let us know so we can attend the meeting. It was also suggested that we educate the community about what is occurring concerning the tower. Further discussion about how important it is to have a marker to acknowledge this community for future generations took place. Gifford is recognized by the State of Florida on their website as the African American Heritage Trail. Commissioner Moss asked what colors or lettering we would prefer. We will discuss, make a decision and get back to her at a later date. She was thanked for attending the meeting.

Land Uses

President Idlette has been in communication with Dr. Hudson concerning the permitted uses in our community and he pointed out that the whole community must take part in "safety" for the businesses located here. We have to all look at those businesses and make sure they are doing the right thing. We must complain to the right people our concerns, even if it is a false alarm when we feel something wrong or bad is going on. We have to be alert for they (Industrial companies and businesses) must be compatible to the community and we must make sure this happens. Everything that comes in must be compatible to the community. He and Freddie will meet with Phil and Ryan Sweeney in May concerning the projects coming into Gifford and what they will

be doing regarding the health of citizens living in the surrounding area. Dr. Hudson stated that most of Gifford citizens are probably not aware that the county does have an ordinance that allows almost any kind of business to operate as long as they adhere to the safety of the people in the community and people need to know this. No more concrete plants are allowed along 45th Street as well as no more mulch plants in Gifford.

Since our last meeting two checks have been written. One was written for our 2020 tax preparation fee in the amount of \$475.00. The E. W. Scholarship fund shares the cost for our annual tax preparation fee, therefore a check for \$237.50 was written from the E. W. Scholarship Fund and deposited back into the Progressive Civic League account. The books are open for your inspection at any time, just make the request. We believe in transparency.

There was no update from Dr. Vonda Hudson concerning the E. W. Scholarships.

Street Captains

Linda Morgan reported that several people have expressed interest in becoming street captains. She has their names and contact information. Freddie has not heard from anyone. Jonnie had request on the markee (45th Street) for about three weeks. Mr. Gene Perry has agreed to be a street captain. Mr. Hart also agreed to become a street captain. We will meet with the potential captains and have dates set up. We decided to establish dates in the month of May, as well as meet with potential street captains. Mr. Gene Perry has been observed picking up trash along 45th Street. He has expressed a desire to continue to assist in clean-up weekly but not serve as a street captain. We appreciate his service to the community. Our first clean-up day would need to occur in June before the Juneteenth Celebrations (June 19th).

Booth Camp

Joe shared information on a Manufacturing Boot Camp that will be open to young people up to age 21 residing in Indian River County. Program begins June 7th and ends June 11th; hours are 8 am until 4 pm. Transportation is provided. Registration closes May 7th. This program will allow young adults to explore manufacturing careers in a real-world setting. They will tour local manufacturers, participate in hands on activities to discover a variety of skills relevant to manufacturing and gain valuable interviewing and resume-writing skills. Applications are online at Career Source. For additional information contact Helene at (772) 567-3491. Can possibly be hired on the spot.

Gifford Historical Society/Cultural Center

Jonnie shared that we have an historical marker for the original Gifford School. It reads Gifford School/Hosie Schumann Park. It might be a good idea to unveil the marker during Juneteenth. Suggested that we invite former students. Possibly followed with a big barbecue.

The County Commissioners voted to make a commitment to allow us to lease the land in the MLK Park for the development of a cultural center. There will be a surrette to engage the entire Gifford community sometimes in July at the Gifford Community Center. Date has not been set yet but will share once finalized.

An exhibit is here in honor of Social Justice/George Floyd at the Ross Gallery entitled "Three Steps Forward, Two Steps Back." A virtual showing is scheduled for one hour on April 21st. Jonnie will send out a link so we can join. The exhibit is here until the end of April. All proceeds from sale of art will go toward the capital campaign of the Cultural Center. The Gallery is open Wednesday through Friday from 3 to 6 pm and 11 am until 2 pm on Saturday.

Gifford Community Center

There are no large gatherings occurring at this time. Hoping that they will be able to open back up by July. Grant requests have been received and currently working on completing them. Tree trimming and cleaning of gutters has been done. Mr. Gipson stated that everything is running smoothly. Liability Insurance paperwork will be turned in next week.

Financials

PCL \$14,134.66;

E. W. Scholarship \$26,146.31

Community Center \$20,176.96

Defense Fund \$4,808.50

Joe thanked everyone for attending and encourage us to continue to stay safe.

Freddie gave update on United Against Poverty (UPS). They are excited to work with the African Americans through their training center. Dates are being scheduled to set up a table under the breezeway at GYAC similar to what Marine Bank did to assist businesses in applying for PPP funding a few weeks ago. Flyers will be printed and distributed to our local churches and businesses.

Freddie also thanked everyone who push for vaccines for members of our community. They are still scheduling appointments for people 18 and older. The Pfizer vaccine will be given in Fellsmere on the 7th and Moderna on the 11th in Oslo.

Ms. Angelia Perry was chosen as "Woman of the Year" for Indian River County. We applaud for the work she does in this community.

An auto mechanic company is interested in taking 10 kids and teaching them how to tear an engine apart as well as put it back together.

Joe stated that he believed Diamond Drinks Company has started operating. Linda Morgan will call Helene at Career Source tomorrow. It was also suggested that she research them online.

Michelle Scott asked how she could pay dues to PCL. Dues are \$24.00 annually. She was informed that a check can be made to PCL and left in Mary McKinney's mailbox and GYAC.

Ms. Aundrea Perry is looking for 12 to 18 year old boys interested in participating in the Boys to Men Program.

Meeting adjourned at 7:54 pm.

Natalie Sanders, Secretary