

Fairness In Taxes

Meeting Minutes 11-04-16

Board Attendance: Bill & Sheila Hartranft, Marie Hayes, Don Kerns, & Jim Tweed

Meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance at 3:00 P.M.

Treasurer's Report – Bill Hartranft

- Dues collected so far are \$6,690.00 down about 1% from last year.
- We currently have \$12,688.00 in CD's.
- We have reduced our postage expense to about \$85.00 by sending the Newsletters out via e-mail. We still had approximately 450 to send out by US Mail. We also ordered 60 extra copies from the printer to send to people with changes of address and/or returned e-mails.
- The feedback from members with their dues has been very positive, as well as the feedback we received from the "welcome night" at the Civic Center. This also generated a little more \$'s from current and a few new members.
- We also will be comparing our current mailing list with the OC Flooding mailing list and adding any new addresses to the FIT mailing list.

OC Flooding Committee – Bill Hartranft for Suzanne Hornick

- There is nothing new to report at this time. Suzanne will provide more information at the December 7th meeting.

Guest Speakers Committee – Marie Hayes

- Speakers considering attending are as follows:
 - Littoral Society to speak on smart growth, coastal planning and public access.
 - Stockton University Hughs Center on Public Policy – Transparency.
 - Rutgers' Institute – Ethical Leadership.

Web Communication Committee – Marie Hayes for Dave Hayes

- Surveying hosts for the web design. Dave will then arrange time with Jim Rudolph to make the transition to the new web site.

Secretary' Report – Sheila Hartranft

- The latest newsletter (Fall) has been mailed. Would like to set a goal of 4 newsletter per year; winter, spring, summer and fall. The target date for mailing the winter newsletter is mid-January 2017. All articles welcome. All members were invited to participate by sending articles on issues of concern to them.
- A number of people stopped by at "welcome night" to just say THANK YOU for all that FIT does and offer their support.
- It was also recommended that we investigate the cost of participation (purchase a table) in 2017 Spring Fest. We would need about 8 volunteers from our board for; 4 teams of 2 for approximately 2 hours. It would be an opportunity to solicit new members and re-connect with old and current members.

President's Discussion – Jim Tweed

- With regard to the issue of questions for council the following are some of the topics to consider:
 - Education
 - City Management
 - Land Use
 - Flooding (help but not interfere with Suzanne Hornick's efforts with the Flood Committee
 - Wetlands
 - Dredge Spoils

President's Discussion Cont'd

- Fit's power is in taking valid issue, with financial decisions of the city administration in a respectful manner.
- It was noted that of the poll involving only a couple of hundred residents taken regarding the 9th & Bay intersection, 80% voted for "green space" at that location rather than new construction.
- Don Kerns asked if the questions had yet been formulated and sent to council. Jim responded that a committee would be formed comprising of himself, Bill Hartranft, Dave & Marie Hayes and Don Kerns. Don also asked if a deadline for submission of question would be helpful.
- It was also suggested that the administration (mayor and council) receive the newsletters and that an article on "green space" could be helpful.

Old Business - None

New Business

- It was suggested that we reduce our summer meetings by 1 or possibly 2; July and/or August. To be decided at the next meeting.
- Bill Hartranft suggested the possibility of having a Christmas gathering for the membership. May not be enough time to coordinate this.
- Frank Wertz noted that Comcast is closing up shop in Ocean City and wondered if they had gotten BPU approval. We should check this out.
- Only 48% of our members provide e-mail addresses and about 10% of those e-mails are invalid. It is difficult to keep up with this.

Adjourned 4:15 P.M.

The next meeting (s) is scheduled for Wednesday, December 7, 2016, 7:00 P.M. All meetings through June 2017 will now be held on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by:
Sheila Hartranft, Secretary