

Meeting Called to Order at 6:05 pm by Mark Frandsen, President.

Invocation By: Dawn Frandsen

Pledge Led By: Tom DeSane

Secretary Minutes Available for Review.

Officials and Dignitaries were introduced. Visitors were welcomed.

Audio and Video recording is not permitted.

Mark began the meeting by noting that North Port Deputy Chief Chris Morales has received an award from the State Police Association.

Florida State Rep. James Buchanan was present and spoke briefly about the budget that had just been passed. Cuts are difficult to make. During the years of COVID money there was a 45% increase in spending. Now there needs to be a \$3.6 Billion reduction in the budget. Most of the extra funds were sent to the rainy day fund. Property taxes will be indexed to inflation to offset costs. A select committee will meet during the summer to study reduction of taxes on property. Florida counties vary in the ways property taxes are used. Any final recommendations by the committee will be subject to the voters passing it at 60% to make the changes. He noted that we should contact his office with any needs.

Alice Rothbauer, the Vice Chair of the Sarasota REC, spoke and presented the club with our 2025-2026 RPOF Charter. Currently, Sarasota County has 9 RPOF chartered clubs. She announced that the next REC meeting will be on September 11th. Doors open at 6:15pm and the meeting begins at 7:00 pm. The meeting will be held in North Port at the Morgan Center on Price Boulevard near the Aquatic Park.

Mark then introduced the featured speaker for the evening. Heidi Brandt. Heidi is a candidate for District #1 of the Sarasota County School Board. She is a resident of Lido Key. She has a daughter that attends Sarasota Public Schools. She is running to insure a conservative school board for our county. Her family history has many persons that were involved in education. She is involved with various boards and committees in the school district.

Heidi noted that there are many educational options for students and parents in Sarasota County. She wants the #1 choice to be Sarasota County Public Schools. This district has the 2nd highest paid teachers in the state. She supports parental rights in the district. The district has high enrollments and is growing with local development. Her plan centers on the concepts of STAY. Security for students, teachers and staff. Teachers that spend 8 hours per day with students. Teachers must know subjects and the district should support teachers. Recruit and maintain great teachers. Academics and Achievement. Develop great curriculums that meet the child where they are at in their learning journey. You. Input from parents and residents are important roles in the school district. Her website is Brandtforschoolboard.com.

After Heidi's presentation a number of relevant issues were discussed by the audience. The school board election will be held August 18, 2026 during the Florida Primary Election. There will be 2 weeks of early voting. We must maintain the 3 to 2 conservative majority on this school board. All 3 conservative seats are up. We must keep those seats. Tim Enos will not run again. Robyn Marinelli will file again. A question was raised regarding the standing of North Port area schools relative to other county schools on various

Academic metrics. The answer was not provided but will be researched and returned to the club. Ms. Brandt will probably speak at the Candidate picnic this year and possibly one more time before next year's election.

Final announcements were made that volunteers will be needed for the North Port July 4th Freedom Fest. Contact Mark if you can help.

The Annual Candidate and Club Picnic will be held October 11th. Venue will be Scout House at Dallas White Park OR the Morgan Center. Pending Park District Scheduling issues. We will need salads, fruit and desserts from attendees again this year. Club will provide burger, dogs, buns and beverages. More info to come. There will be a small fee per person to attend.

We are planning our Annual Christmas Party on Monday, December 15 at Tarpon Point starting at 6pm. We will provide more details on menu selections and costs.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:53 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Marian L. Patricoski, Secretary

