

MINUTES

June 5, 2025

Council Members Present: Beth Hovind, Carmen Lake, Michael Arendall, Maria Amado, Dawn Handley, Adriana Palacio, Deputy Ryan Skalko, John White

Council Members Absent: Mark Hopkins, Eric Clark, Mary Sharrow, Nadine Spring Nickeson, Niko Stergiotis

Guests: Steve Marshall – St. Pete College, Ron Haddad – Rotary, Dorothy Shipe – R'Club, Gabriella Tomaselli – Boley Centers

JWB Staff: Joanne M. Reich

I. Call to Order: Beth Hovind - Chair called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm.

A. Welcome – Member and guest introductions.

II. Special Presentation – by Professor Steve Marshall, F.A.A.M.E. Coordinator at St. Petersburg College:

Professor Marshall works with the F.A.A.M.E. Program, designed to encourage young men of color to attend St. Petersburg College as a launchpad to future college and university education at institutions throughout the state and ultimately, to future career success. The program is in its fourth year, with 20-30 participants annually, and it consists both of classroom education and engagement, including in a summer boot camp, to help prepare participants for success in college, including stress management, test taking, exposure to business professionals in a variety of industries, and exposure to law enforcement, among other things. When participants begin their first year at St. Petersburg College, the program participants travel as a cohort during the first year, taking core general education classes together. Then, in the second year, participants focus more closely on their unique, chosen routes of study, with focused preparation on their desired major paths at the institutions to which they want to transfer. In the course of the program, Professor Marshall often hears from and mentors' young men from diverse, challenging backgrounds. He invited Council Members to refer potential candidates to the program. From a criteria perspective, to be eligible for the program, a participant must be a high school graduate, maintain a 2.0GPA at St. Petersburg College, and apply for financial aid to help them at the College. Council Members offered suggestions to Professor Marshall for some neighborhood community centers and programs that may be interested in hearing more about the F.A.A.M.E. Program or may have pools of future participants. Professor Marshall may be contacted at (727) 244-8119 and marshall.steve@spcollege.edu.

III. JWB Updates

Joanne reminded the Council about Tarpon Springs' assigned Book Bus dates, June 30 and July 1, and there are a variety of other dates and locations for Council Members interested in volunteering elsewhere.

Joanne has flyers for Council Members which identify (and have a QR code for) locations across the county that offer summer break spots for families and children.

Joanne shared that Michael Mikurak will begin as Interim CEO next week, and Mr. Mikurak will serve as Interim CEO during the search process for a new CEO. Mr. Mikurak is a former gubernatorial appointee to the JWB Board and previously served as Board Chair.

The Council's September meeting will be at the Mattie Williams Neighborhood Family Center, and following completion of the expansion project, the Council will meet in the Center's new community room.

IV. Council Business

John White moved to approve the May 2025 meeting minutes, and Carmen Lake seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Beth Hovind announced that there is a free training for legislative advocacy that Council Members can sign up for. A flyer was circulated via email.

Beth Hovind asked Council Members to review her Year in Review summary prepared in preparation for a dialogue about Council priorities over the next year. She opened the floor up to Council Members to share feedback. Adriana suggested that it would be helpful to hear a debrief from JWB about what happened in Tallahassee during the most recent legislative session. Michael shared his perspective that the Council identify one or two key issues to advocate and work closely with JWB to ensure that advocacy efforts work in conjunction with JWB. Joanne shared the perspective that Becca and the JWB Legislative Team would likely welcome the Council's interest in advocating in conjunction with JWB. Maria shared that she felt the Council does effectively outreach to the community, even when it is not a Council-sanctioned or adopted set platform. Michael suggested that some of our efforts could be more focused once we hear a debrief from Becca about ideas that may have gained traction in Tallahassee. Beth obtained the consensus of the Council that we want to continue advocacy efforts in the same manner we have been.

V. Community Updates

Joanne mentioned that there will be a Spanish-language Hurricane Preparedness Event this Saturday, June 7, 2025 at the Mattie Williams NFC in Safety Harbor, and hurricane kits will be distributed.

Joanne announced that on August 21, 2025, from 9am-12pm, at the Salvation Army worship center on Belcher Rd. in Clearwater, there will be a summit on aging. Council Members should expect an information flyer to arrive via email from Joanne.

Beth will be attending a management workshop in Tampa next week. Council Members interested in attending can contact her.

Maria said there will be a caregiver retreat on June 21, 2025 at the Empath Health Life Center in Hillsborough County with activities to help promote caregivers in the area.

Beth thanked Joanne on behalf of the Council for all of her efforts on our behalf.

The Council's next meeting is Thursday, September 4, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. at the Mattie Williams Neighborhood Family Center, 1003 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Street North in Safety Harbor.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was called at 7:27 pm. Carmen Lake. motioned, and Dawn Handley seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:27 pm by Chair Beth Hovind.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Council Secretary, Michael Arendall