



Observer Reporting Form

Feature Evaluated	Yes	No	Comments
Meeting started on time?	X		
All members present?		X	Commissioner Broyles came 1 hour late.
Members attentive?	X		
Did members appear to have done their "homework?"	X		
Were members courteous to each other and the public?	X		
Agenda sent/posted 72 hours before?	X		
Agenda items clearly described what was to be discussed?	X		
Adequate opportunity for public input?	X*		
Was there an appearance that some action items were discussed in closed rather than open session?		X	
Was background information available to the public?	X*		
Facilities adequate? (room size, lighting, ventilation, speakers audible, accessible to handicapped)	X		

Were any issues on the agenda relevant to LWV positions or programs? ***R-10-8-403 passed 16/3 after citizen Barbara Cook apparently had requested permission to speak but was overlooked and then invited to speak after her appearance at the microphone. Her statement was to bring Commission attention to bear on the fact that they did not have the global information they should have had before they voted to approve this software contract (\$213, 854) for managing stormwater resolution. She cited further, and undocumented, human costs in implementation and support and in how the new system would interface with other systems. She also noted that it was virtually impossible to access information about the proposed software online.**

R-10-8-607 Extensive discussion on this resolution to purchase property at 4630 Asheville Highway for expansion of the new Strickland Park. Three years ago Commission agreed to seek purchase of the property at a price up to \$225,000. The property was recently appraised at \$120,000. County appraisal value is \$142,000. The owner has agreed to sell at \$216,000 w/stipulation that billboard income remains his for 5 years. Although several commissioners were reluctant to approve

funding (for half, city will fund other half) without any contract and with the prospect of the billboard on county property, Commissioner McKenzie and community supporter Sharon Davis pushed for an immediate vote. Commission voted to approve the acquisition at \$225, 000 with no billboard rights for the seller who must also pay 2009 taxes and the pro-rated taxes for 2010. All commissioners agreed that acquisition of this property was desirable. *A League concern might be the decision to pay above market value when funds are so tight. The implication that a transaction of this sort simply would not happen in the private sector was clearly the elephant in the room.

R-10-8-801 Three hundred citizens from the Carter community arrived in support of increasingly strong opposition to the School Board to renovate Carter Elementary School. Board Chair Kincannon and Superintendent McIntyre reiterated their position that renovation is the best plan. The summary of the Carter community argument is: 1. after renovation some classrooms will still not meet recommended standards and 2: repeated incidence of mold and sewage back-up are not being adequately addressed in the renovation plan. An impressive effort by Commissioner Broyles to probe disparities in testimonies by District Commissioners Wright and Armstrong and Sup. McIntyre produced one significant claim that should be checked out: that there should be multiple repair orders for mold and sewage clean-up. If so, this information should be shared with the public to support or refute positions. Judging from statements read by four community representatives, the Carter community now appears to feel disrespected as well as short-changed—an unhappy situation for the entire county.

Do you recommend League action on any of these issues? *See above paragraph two

Other Concerns:

Observer: Maggie Carini

Meeting: County Commission

Date: 8/23/10

Please submit completed forms to Observer Corps Committee Chair