

TDC
Continued from page 1A

Dorothy Slye, TDC member and owner of The Pier, Inc., and Sanborn were the only two members that voted on the motion.



Slye

The issue revolved around the TDC's approval of providing \$30,000 to the City of Milton for developing a conceptual development plan of a riverfront master plan on the condition that TDC Chairman Vernon Compton be on the steering committee.

All recommendations from the TDC must go before the board of county commissioners for approval. This request went before the BOCC on Dec. 13, 2012 when the commissioners approved \$30,000 be carried forward to the City of Milton.

"The TDC approved that money at the November board meeting and that I be the TDC representative on the steering committee," Compton said during the March 20 meeting.

The condition Compton

Tourist Development Council

Florida Statute requires that if a county collects bed tax, a tax applied to visitors who stay in hotels or condominiums, a tourist development council must be formed and seated with members who are in a tourist-related business.

Funds generated from the bed tax are to be used for tourist development and marketing. Any recommendations from the TDC for the expenditure of money must be approved by the county commissioners. The TDC has no authority to allocate money, it can only recommend. The authority rests with the county commissioners.

serve on the steering committee was not included in the documents to the commissioners when they approved the request at the Dec. 13 commission meeting. The request was only to approve the TDC's recommendation to allocate \$30,000 from TDC funds to the City of Milton.

Milton Mayor Guy Thompson appointed Kyle Holley, TDC member and United Way of Santa Rosa County director, to the steering committee. Compton did serve on the selection committee that ultimately selected the consulting firm Peter J. Smith & Company, Inc. to help develop a comprehensive Riverfront Master Plan. However, Compton was not selected to serve

on the steering committee.

"I never received correspondence or minutes that it was voted on by the board ... It was more of an indication that a (TDC) board member should be on there," Thompson said in a follow-up interview. "I appointed Kyle because he has a deep background in hospitality ... (and) deep roots in the area ... and he was on the TDC so they would be represented well."

For the Sanborn and Slye, Holley being on the steering committee was not an issue. It was Compton not being selected by the mayor that was an egregious act.

"This is extremely serious, an affront to me and the TDC," said Sanborn. "Vernon is more qualified than anybody on

this list ... it's really a slap in the face. This is the second time the city has made this type of gesture."

Sanborn went on to air his grievance that the "Welcome to the City of Milton" sign did not read "The Canoe Capital of Florida" as the TDC recommended about six years ago when TDC funds were used in part to help erect the sign.

Sanborn's company, Adventures Unlimited, offers canoeing and kayaking, among other recreational activities, on Coldwater Creek and through the Blackwater River State Forest.

The sign instead reads: "Where Good Living Begins." "We have two NFL Players and three PGA players from this area - there are a lot of things to be proud of that we can't fit on the sign," said Thompson. "There are bigger fish to fry. My goal as mayor is making sure the citizens of this city are served well."

Thompson added he had not been contacted by any TDC member about their "condition" that Compton serve on the steering committee, nor was he aware the item was added to the TDC agenda.

Slye took that same stand as Sanborn regarding the perceived slights by the city.

"If they don't want our input then they don't want our money ... so Randy you just need to give us that \$30,000 back," Slye said.

Randy Jorgensen, the City of Milton planner responded that if pressed, the city would probably return the money but he didn't think it was a sound approach to problem solving. He added he received a directive from the county commissioners, not the TDC.

"Let me tell you, the \$30,000 was a directive I received from (Commissioner Jim) Melvin at a BOCC meet-

ing," Jorgensen said.

Holley and Compton abstained from voting, as did Clayton White, city councilman and TDC member, and Mike Loera, TDC member and regional revenue manager of The Hampton Inn & Suites of Hotel Equities.

"I don't think I can vote on a political disaster," said Loera. After passing the motion with just two votes, Slye commented there were enough votes to carry the motion, adding: "(It would be) really good if you all could abstain every time, that way Jack and I could get some work done."

The recommendation will have to go before the commissioners for final approval.

City of Milton Riverfront Master Plan

The purpose of hiring a consultant is "to develop a clear and concise plan that will provide direction to City staff and Council and County staff and board of Commissioners for future development, redevelopment, and enhancement of the City's and County's park system, open spaces, recreation facilities, private sector development, and creation programs. This process is to include an analysis of Riverfront current and forecasted needs, clear recommendations, and an implementation strategy for a five-year period from 2013-2018."

Vicki Miller speaks to Republican women

By Romi White
Navarre Press

Speaking to Santa Rosa Federated Republican Women at their March monthly meeting, held March 26 at Tuscan Grill, Miller pointed out that 20 females serve in the U.S. Senate, but 16 of them are Democrats. In the House, 77 are women, and 58 are Democrats.

She added that 53 percent of the electorate in the 2012 election was female; however, 55 percent of them supported the Democratic Party candidate.

"So we still have work to do," Miller said. She spoke about the need for women to strike a balance and find the right recipe which works for them, noting that she has chosen to play a supportive role for her husband as his partner in "our" life. She has served as a mentor to other spouses of congressional members, encouraging them to be flexible, take time to pray, maintain a good attitude, keep a sense of humor, get carry-on luggage, and be grateful for the privilege of serving.

Miller shared how former First Lady Barbara Bush told her during a visit to Destin that she could choose to like this experience or not, referring to being in the demanding role of a supportive spouse. Miller has chosen to like it and help others make that choice.



Photo by Sandi Kemp
Vicki Miller, wife of U.S. Congressman Jeff Miller, Martha Brenenstahl, president, Santa Rosa Federated Republican Women and Sharon Santurri, district representative for Congressman Miller.

The Republican Club of Santa Rosa County

Monthly Meeting & Dutch Treat Dinner
April 2, 2013 at 6:30 p.m.

The Club at Hidden Creek • 3070 PGA Boulevard.

Guest Speaker
Ms. KrisAnn Hall
Constitutional Attorney

For more information contact:
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EGLIN FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Annual Meeting
March 28, 2013

Niceville Community Center
104 N Partin Drive

Registration 6:15 PM
Meeting Begins 7:00 PM

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