

July 13, 2023

Opening

The board meeting of the Children's Services Council of Saint Lucie County was called to order at 8:34 a.m. on July 13, 2023 presided over by CSC Chair Bartz. CSC Chair lead with the Pledge of Allegiance and followed with reading of the CSC Mission Statement.

Attendees

Voting members in attendance included: L. Bartz; R. Del Toro; E. Finkel; D. Hawley; C. Izzo; M. Linn; and J. Prince. The final quorum was established at seven members.

Members Absent: P. Alley; A. Gregory; and M. Lawless.

Public in attendance: *reference the 'Public in Attendance Sign-in sheet' for details.*

Public Comments

- No members of the public wished to address the board.

Approval of Consent Agenda and Consent Documents

The consent agenda for today's meeting, including previous month's meeting minutes, board attendance record, Memorandum of Voting Conflict Form 8B and month-end financial statement was unanimously approved as distributed. ***Mr. Finkel motioned to approve; Mr. Izzo seconded motion; motion carried unanimously 7:0.***

CEO's Report

Saint Lucie County Chamber of Commerce Luncheon -- Mr. Boyle informed the board that CSCSLC will again participate in the Saint Lucie County Chamber of Commerce Luncheon scheduled for November 8th. Similar to last year's event, CSC will present CSC's Champion for Children awards at this Chamber event in November. In preparation for this, the CSC Team will bring recommended nominations for the Champion for Children's awards at the board meeting in August. Mr. Boyle mentioned that given the local impact on children related to the legislative bills passing on the background screening and the Healthy Kids fiscal tiers, the consideration of local legislative delegation (Florida House of Representatives Dana Trabulsky and Erin Grall; and Florida Senate Gayle Harrell) should be honored in their support and effort made in the passing bills. Although each would receive their own personal award to possess, the recognition would be presented as a grouped delegation effort, not individually, as it took all three to make these bills successful in passing. This is not to be interpreted as a political strategy or the honoring of a political party, simply a recognition of appreciation in this delegation's efforts and commitment to the passing of these bills. Mr. Boyle solicited feedback from the board on their thoughts in this

Disclosure

The Children's Services Council of St. Lucie County maintains an audio record of all monthly Council meetings and public hearings. The written summarized minutes of the meetings are concise and become the official minutes after approval by the Council. Any person seeking to appeal any decision by the Children's Services Council, with respect to any matter considered at this meeting, is advised that a record of the proceeding is required in any such appeal and that such person may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceeding is made including the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

consideration, as this would be the first-time delegation has been honored by CSC in this format. The board consensus is in favor of the delegation recommendation as long as it is recognized as a group and not honoring a particular person.

CSC Budget Presentation – Mr. Boyle made mention of the CSC Budget presentation for the upcoming fiscal year that will be presented by Mr. Jefferson at today’s board meeting and expressed his thanks to him as well as the entire CSC Team for their collaborative efforts made in making this presentation possible. He acknowledged the hard work and detailed effort put in by Mr. Jefferson in the drafting of the budget.

CSC’s Application (RFP) Process – Mr. Boyle explained to the board members that CSC’s grant applications across the board were recently reviewed for improvements and clarity with the prospective applicants’ view in mind. The CSC Team evaluation concluded that measures of improvement could be made with regards to grant funding applications including a revised timeline of grant applications, holding a minimum of two bidders’ conferences for each application, and having a general information session available to the public. A formal CAI will be presented at the board meeting in August with the recommended improvements.

CSC’s New Infomercials – Mr. Boyle played two short videos featuring CSC board member and Assistant Chief of Police Del Toro focused on ‘Keeping Kids Off the Streets’ and the Saint Lucie Reads Initiative featuring superhero Bookman. Mr. Boyle mentioned that the Keeping Kids Off the Streets video will be highlighted in late July/early August as the kids prepare to return to school, it will be broadcasted on the Treasure Coast radio WQSC station. Saint Lucie Reads video will run all year round to encourage the community to get involved with mentoring and donating.

Program Presentation:

CSC’s More Than A Game – Mr. Boyle presented a PowerPoint presentation, in the absence of CSC Team member Mr. Cesar who was not able to be at today’s meeting to make the presentation himself. *More Than A Game* began as an effort to engage fathers, as well as building a ‘fatherhood’ that could be a support system and chain in knowledge to all participants. It was centered around the love of the sport of basketball which would serve as an incentive. The sessions would include an informative/resourceful segment for fathers, followed by two-hours of basketball play in an indoor venue. Mr. Boyle provided some statistics on the popularity of *More Than A Game*, as well as improvements and successes made in seasons following. Graduates of the *More Than A Game* are recognized and awarded with prizes as well. It has become a very popular event amongst our community, even expanding the concept over to another sport, golf. CSC has partnered with BOTG (Building Opportunities Through Golf) mimicking the *More Than A Game Basketball* program by including an informative segment followed by golf instruction. *More Than A Game Golf* program is currently in session, beginning in June and ending on August 1st. Two graduates from *More Than A Game Basketball* were present to provide personal experiences of their participation, and their gratitude that such a program exists and how it has benefited them respectively. All in attendance were touched by their personal experiences and it served as validation of the program’s impact on our community.

Old Business

A. CAI: FY 2023-24 CSC Budget -- Mr. Jefferson explained that today's presentation reflects CSC's Tentative Budget for fiscal year 2023/24 and a board vote is required. Vote locks in what will be released in the TRIM notices. The budget information being presented today is very similar to the information received last month. Property values have increased from presentation in June to today's presentation of July adding additional revenue of \$47,000. In order to compensate for this increased value, the CSC Team cut back the millage rate from .3925 to .3790, in order to maintain the budget model as set by the board in April. FY 2022-23 millage rate was 0.4544, the proposed millage for FY 2023-24 is .3740, this represents a decrease of 5.8% in millage rate; and the lowest millage rate since FY 1999/2000. Expenses increased over \$36,000, with Operating Expenditures taking most of the increase mainly in IT area over \$21,000; and increase to Program Allocations of \$15,000. Program expenditures are increasing in comparison to prior years, with administrative percentage of the budget reducing. Taxpayer averages with and without homestead were \$61.81 annually with homestead exemption and \$80.76 without homestead exemption based on the property appraised value of \$213,080; approximately a \$5 to \$8 per month cost to the Saint Lucie County taxpayer. Appraised value is determined by the Property Appraiser, and it may be better defined as assessed value. Mr. Jefferson concluded with the TRIM calendar, reminding board members of quorum required for the Public Hearing evenings of September 5th and 14th.

Motion was approved for the CSC Budget and TRIM schedule for fiscal year 2023/2024, as presented at today's board meeting. Mr. Finkel motioned to approve; Assistant Chief Del Toro seconded motion; motion carries 6 in favor:1 abstention. Judge Linn abstained from vote.

New Business:

A. CAI: CSC Office Lease Request - BOTG Incubation Lease -- Mr. Boyle provided a brief synopsis of the CAI, known as New Business, Item A on the agenda. Building Opportunities Through Golf (BOTG) is a 501c3 start up organization which has requested in-kind office space from CSC. BOTG is a small, new organization that "introduces youth to the fundamental and founding principles of golf by mentors who demonstrate similarities between the game of golf and the game of life." BOTG plans to offer golf lessons, field trips and mini tournaments. Currently BOTG is partnering with CSC for the More Than a Game, golf edition, to educate fathers on parenting and community resources. They are requesting one office (196 sq feet) plus the CAM space of which equals an in-kind cost of \$6,316 per year. CSC will charge \$1 annual fee for occupancy; and they may be housed up to three years in the incubation space pending a \$1 renewal fee each year. Lease year is August 1, 2023, through July 31, 2024. Part of this incubation agreement is that CSC will touch base with the organization periodically to monitor their progress in operations and offer guidance if necessary. The CSC Team is recommending the approval of this office lease request with BOTG.

Motion was approved for new tenant BOTG to occupy incubation lease in the CSC office as detailed in the CAI of today. Ms. Hawley motioned to approve; Lieutenant Izzo seconded motion; motion carries unanimously 7:0.

Final Comments from CSC Council/CSC Team

- CSC Chair Bartz concluded with final comments. She expressed appreciation for the personal experiences of the graduates of More Than A Game; as well as thanked board members for being present at today's meeting since it was a rather important meeting related to the coming fiscal year budget. She reminded board members of quorum necessary for upcoming Public Hearings in September.

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 9:21 a.m. and carries unanimously.

The next meeting is scheduled at 8:30 a.m. on August 10, 2023, in the CSC Board Room.

Summary of Motions

APPROVED the July 13, 2023 Consent Agenda, which includes the following:

- a. The Agenda for July 13, 2023.*
- b. CSC Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes – June 8, 2023.*
- c. Memorandum of Voting Conflict Form 8B for Bartz – June 8, 2023.*
- d. Memorandum of Voting Conflict Form 8B for Del Toro – June 8, 2023.*
- e. CSC Council Attendance Record Fiscal Year 2022/2023 – As of June 30, 2023.*
- f. CSC Monthly Financials Fiscal Year 2022/2023 – As of June 30, 2023.*

APPROVED *CSC Budget and TRIM schedule for fiscal year 2023/2024, as presented at today’s board meeting.*

APPROVED *New tenant, BOTG, to occupy incubation lease in the CSC office as detailed in the CAI of today.*

Minutes respectfully transcribed & submitted by: Paula Rivera, CSC Office Manager