

**CALL TO ORDER** - A Workshop of the City Council of Marathon, Florida was held on March 26, 2024 in the Marathon Council Chambers, 9805 Overseas Hwy., Marathon, Florida, Mayor Still called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

**ROLL CALL - There were present:**

Councilmember Gonzalez

Vice-Mayor Landry

Mayor Still, comprising a quorum.

Also, in attendance were:

City Manager, George Garrett

City Clerk, Diane Clavier

City Attorney, Steve Williams

Members of the Public

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mayor Still informed everyone each organization would be given two minutes to speak and at the end they would take comments from the public. Clavier informed everyone that the organizations would be called in the order they applied for the grant. Williams informed the Council that since this is a workshop and no votes would be taken, there would be no conflicts.

Christine Todd-Young representing Habitat for Humanity informed everyone that last year the grant was used to make repairs to the home of a veteran. This year any grant funding from the City would be used for accessibility issues as a chairlift is needed for someone.

Karen Thomas representing Payton's Promise explained her mission to compassionately care for senior dogs and any grant money would go towards vet care, medical needs, and comfort for senior dogs.

Katie Lewis and Mark Bush representing Marathon Premier Sailfish Tournament explained their organization and that they were able to give \$27,000 to Stanley Switlick last year and this year were asking for funding for marketing expenses.

Judge Fowler and Maria Triana representing Literacy Volunteers of America explained any grant money received would go towards books, transportation and a citizen's class.

Marathon Premier Sailfish's PowerPoint presentation was shown.

Kylie Smith with ICARE Corporation explained any grant funding would be used for transportation to dive shops which would provide opportunities for Marathon dive shops to educate them and allow younger youths to be certified in diving.

Michael Cunningham representing Keys AHEC Health Centers explained they had ten sites, two in Marathon at the schools, a full-time nurse spends time at each school and there is also a mobile dental unit and a dental office space in Marathon.

Sheryl Schwab representing the Domestic Abuse Shelter explained the items the grant funded.

Ben Daughtry representing R2EACH informed everyone the funding would be used to rehabilitate manatees.

Reverand McConaughy representing the Hammock House explained they provide after school care and camp care and funding would be used to provide an extra week and add field trips.

George Crume representing Florida Keys Children's Shelter explained that grant funding would be used to help offset transportation costs.

Charlotte Quinn representing Crane Point informed everyone that any grant funding from the City would be used for Children to attend summer camp.

Jennette Hughes representing Marine Lab/Marine Resources Development Foundation informed everyone that the organization teaches children about our marine environment.

A representative from Take Stock in Children explained they mentor and help children apply for college and a Florida prepaid scholarship is matched by the state. They also help children apply for grants.

Christina Belotti and her daughter Dr. Belotti representing ECMC explained they help students in need with clothing and food.

Wayne Carter representing FIRM explained they try to keep insurance rates fair with the rest of Florida and have saved nine hundred million dollars for Monroe County residents. Any grant funding received would go toward research, travel, legal costs and mapping.

Kevin McAuley and Christine Schluter representing Presents in Paradise explained they help children have Christmas and funding received would go toward musical instruments, bedding and clothes.

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Loretta Geotis representing Salvation Army explained that four million dollars was provided to Monroe County residents after Hurricane Irma and they offer long term assistance to those in need, the three stores in the County and the Red Kettle program provides the bulk of the funding.

Phyllis Michaels representing Independence Cay and KAIR informed everyone that everyone staying in the shelter is working, and ten people are in the shelter and that funding would go towards backpacks for children, and those needing assistance with utilities and transportation costs.

Ruth Coleman representing Special Olympics Florida along with David and Justin Hare informed everyone that any grant funding would be used for travel costs.

John Hunt representing Grace Jones Community Center explained any grant funding would be used for food and the back pack program, explaining they noticed the children were consuming more food on Mondays which is why they started the weekend backpack program that they will with appropriate snacks.

Diane Culver representing the Heart of the Keys Recreation Association explained they serve all ages of children with water safety education, childcare services, field trips, activities and dance classes and grant funding would go towards this.

Michelle Nevel and Trich Worthington representing United Way of Collier and the Keys explained they are an affiliate for the Dolly Parton library and serve 110 children in Marathon and funding received would stay in Marathon.

Carolyn Robers representing Womankind explained they have a local office for healthcare for woman in Marathon that offers family planning, cancer screenings, prenatal care, etc. and funding would be used for medical care.

Kelly Grinter representing the Wild Bird Center explained funding received would be used for fish food for the birds.

JoAnne Zimmerman representing the Marathon Community Theatre explained any funding would be used for their plumbing issues and they help organizations bring children into the theatre.

Betsy Lefler representing the Marathon Yacht Club Education Foundation explained they teach children to sail, water safety and marine science and funding would be used for new boats used to learn to sail.

Carla Burns representing the Conch Republic Marine Army explained they clean up near shore waters and they are expanding into Marathon, funding would be used to help offset insurance.

Angel Lewis representing Community Coop preschool informed everyone funding would go toward their summer program, field trips, activities, sports equipment and their after-care program into the summer.

**Public Speakers**

Diane Scott asked the Council to give everyone something, but she felt the Council gives some of the organizations too much, be fair and give money for food and gas.

Still thanked all the organizations and informed everyone that on April 9<sup>th</sup> the awards would be announced.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Still adjourned the meeting at 6:50 pm by unanimous consent.

I certify the above represents an accurate summary of the City Council workshop of March 26, 2024.

for Hilary Palmer  
Diane Clavier City Clerk Deputy Clerk Date

4-10-24