

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
Thursday, Feb. 11, 2010

Vice-president George Stokes called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM at the South Shore Library.

Legislative Director Lyn Safian introduced the speaker, Denise Layne, founder of the Coalition for Responsible Growth, who spoke about the coming legislative session in March and April and what we could expect to come up at that session. She stressed that her group represented environmentalists, developers and members of the community who worked together to encourage responsible growth in the state. She mentioned some of the following facts:

A- There will be a three billion dollar deficit in the coming year and no federal government stimulus to bail out the state.

B- Florida Forever is the state's version of Hillsborough's ELAPP. Both programs buy up land for preservation.

They are both in danger because of the huge budget deficit that is coming.

C- The state and Hillsborough County have different ways of dealing with the need for water as development continues.

D- Tampa Bay Water, the agency created to increase cooperation between communities in the Tampa Bay region, has its partnership agreement coming up for review this year and changes may be coming.

D- The governor has a line item veto on budget items but can't add any items or delete any non-budget items

E- Many of the bills filed at this time, simply list a category for the bills but not any details that can be reviewed

Ms Layne said that she would keep us updated on issues, as they arose in the legislature this session, and hopes that we will respond with e-mails to legislators when action becomes necessary. The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 PM.