



PUNTA GORDA ENGLEWOOD BEACH

The Charlotte Harbor Gulf Island Coast

Charlotte County Tourist Development Council Meeting Minutes Friday, October 13, 2023

A meeting of the Charlotte County Tourist Development Council was held Friday, October 13, 2023, at Murdock Administration Building, Conference Room B-106, 18500 Murdock Circle, Port Charlotte, FL.

Members Present

Commissioner Christopher Constance
Councilmember Mark Kuharski
Councilmember Donna Peterman
Kathy Burnam
David Haynes
Kelly Williamson
Keith Farlow

Members Absent

Robin Madden
Gary Butler

Guests

Jim Finch, Charlotte Harbor Events & Conference Center
Doug Izzo, Englewood Chamber of Commerce
Kelly Brigham-Steiner, Visual Arts Center

Staff Present

Glinda Pruitt, Assistant County Attorney
Sean Walter, Sales & Sports Marketing Manager
Jeff Berg, Meetings Market Sales Manager
Aimee Blenker, Leisure Sales Manager
Lois Croft, Public Relations Manager
Julie Pennock, Senior Administrative Assistant
Amy Sharpe, Administrative Services Coordinator
Dan Roe, Tax Collector's Office
Elie Fischhof, Fiscal Services

I. Call to Order & Pledge of allegiance

Commissioner Christopher Constance called the Charlotte County Tourist Development Council (TDC) meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

II. Roll Call

A quorum was established.

III. Citizens' Input

Jim Finch, Charlotte Harbor Events & Conference Center reported on bookings from the last twelve months, October 2022 to September 2023. Finch reported they had 10 additional events compared to FY22 which included 6 weeks lost due to Hurricane Ian. Finch advised they are busy scheduling bookings.

Doug Izzo, Englewood Chamber of Commerce advised the ninth Let's Eat Englewood partnership ran for two weeks in September. Izzo Continued to advise the first day of the 2023 Let's Eat Englewood partnership the traffic on the website caused the website to crash. Izzo also advised they had over 20 restaurants participate.

IV. Approval of TDC Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Councilmember Mark Kuharski, and seconded by Kathy Burnam, to approve the August 18, 2023, minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

V. Tourist Tax Report – Dan Roe

The tax collector report was presented by Dan Roe. Roe reported July through August revenue is currently at \$894,507.47. Roe continued to report that there were 562 suspect accounts. Roe advised that year to date collections so far is \$7,074,976.02. Roe continued to advise that we've decreased by 45 rental properties over the last quarter.

VI. Budget Report

VII. The fiscal report was presented by Elie Fischhof. Fischhof reported the fiscal year 2023 budget of \$4.2M ended with 2.7M in actual operating expenditures and \$754,819.00 in transfers. Fischhof continued to report that the fiscal year 2023 budget was expended 95.5%. Fischhof also reported expenditures for the 4th and 5th cents were \$10,000 for Promo Activities General and approximately \$694,538.04 for Promo Activities Advertising. Fischhof advised every year movement between the first 3 cents and the 4th and 5th cents are made for the overage in the 4th and 5th cents.

VIII. Robin Madden – Budget Review

Robin Madden was absent from the meeting.

IX. February TDC Meeting Date Change

A motion was made by Kathy Burnam, and seconded by David Haynes to reschedule the February 16, 2023, TDC meeting to February 23, 2023. Motion carried unanimously.

X. Director/Staff Report – Sean Walter

Sean Walter, Sales & Sports Marketing Manager presented in Sean Doherty's absence. Walter provided a recap of the Tourism Department Board Report. Walter advised the Board of County Commissioners passed two resolutions for the TDC, one authorizing the TDC board to approve our scheduled meetings and the second authorizes the TDC board to approve the annual marketing plan. Walter also advised the beach cam is back up and running and is high resolution.

XI. Citizen's Comments

Kelly Brigham-Steiner, Visual Arts Center advised they have started a partnership working with the Peace River Botanical Gardens. Brigham-Steiner continued to advise the Gardens is doing a glass and art exhibition and the Visual Arts Center is doing a fire and ice exhibition in partnership. Brigham-Steiner also advised the Visual Arts Center will have the National Art exhibition which will run from February to April.

Jeff Lustig, private citizen, advised about the job opportunities the opening of Sunseeker Resort is providing for older individuals like himself in our community.

Doug Izzo, Englewood Chamber of Commerce reported there is a new sculpture located at Englewood Beach which was the legacy project of this year's leadership program at the Englewood Chamber of Commerce.

XII. Council Comments

David Haynes advised they are seeing a lot of returning guests coming back to vacation on a barrier island. Haynes continued to advise Hideaway Bay Beach Club, with its 102 units, is still offline. Haynes also advised about 70% of the Hideaway Bay units rent out. Haynes reported having 55 vacation rentals and 70 long term rentals.

Councilmember Mark Kuharski reported the Punta Gorda City Council recently passed new land development regulations.

Councilmember Donna Peterman reported last week she and other council members attended the celebration of the expansion of the PicklePlex. Peterman also advised on December 1 is the annual light up the night festival.

Keith Farlow reported that restaurant business has been down.

Kelly Williamson reported that the hotel finished renovating all the rooms. Williamson also reported the Thunderbirds will be at the air show and on Thursday there will be a meet and greet.

Kathy Burnam advised they have their Lighting of the Village on November 18. Burnam also advised the suites are doing well and seeing a lot of walk in business. Burnam continued to advise the suites are already sold out for New Year's Eve.

Commissioner Christopher Constance reported Sunday, October 22 the Punta Gorda Symphony, with the new conductor, will have a performance of John Williams works. Constance also reported the mid-County Library building is salvageable.

XIII. Next Scheduled Meeting

The next scheduled TDC meeting is at 9:00 a.m. Friday, December 15, 2023. The meeting will be held in the B-106 Conference Room, Administration Building, 18500 Murdock Circle, Port Charlotte.

XIV. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:07 a.m.