



# PUNTA GORDA ENGLEWOOD BEACH

The Charlotte Harbor Gulf Island Coast

## Charlotte County Tourist Development Council Meeting Minutes Friday, February 23, 2024

A meeting of the Charlotte County Tourist Development Council was held Friday, February 23, 2024, at Murdock Administration Building, Conference Room B-106, 18500 Murdock Circle, Port Charlotte, FL.

### **Members Present**

Commissioner Christopher Constance  
Councilmember Donna Peterman  
Councilmember William Dryburgh  
Keith Farlow  
Kathy Burnam  
Robin Madden  
David Haynes  
Gary Butler

### **Members Absent**

Kelly Williamson

### **Staff Present**

Claire Jubb, Assistant County Administrator  
Glinda Pruitt, Assistant County Attorney  
Sean Doherty, Tourism Development Director  
Sean Walter, Sales & Sports Marketing Manager  
Lois Croft, Public Relations Manager  
Maureen Morgenthien, Marketing Manager  
Jeff Berg, Meetings Market Sales Manager  
Julie Pennock, Senior Administrative Assistant  
Amy Sharpe, Administrative Services Coordinator  
Dan Roe, Tax Collector's Office  
Elie Fischhof, Fiscal Services

### **Guests**

Kaley Miller, Punta Gorda Airport  
Lisa Gallucci, Visual Arts Center

#### **I. Call to Order & Pledge of allegiance**

Commissioner Christopher Constance called the Charlotte County Tourist Development Council (TDC) meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

#### **II. Roll Call**

A quorum was established.

#### **III. Approval of the Agenda**

A motion was made by Kathy Burnam and seconded by William Dryburgh, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **IV. Citizens' Input**

There was no Citizen's input on any agenda items.

**V. Approval of TDC Meeting Minutes**

A motion was made by Kathy Burnam and seconded by David Haynes, to approve the December 15, 2024, minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

**VI. Tourist Tax Report – Dan Roe**

The tax collector report was presented by Dan Roe. Roe reported the first quarter of fiscal year 23-24, October through December collections were \$1,450,616.52. Roe continued to report that there were 564 suspect accounts, with one suspect account added. Roe advised that collections are down 4.9% over the first quarter of last year. Roe continued to advise there are currently 2,959 rental properties, with 150 properties added and 49 properties removed in the last quarter.

**VII. Budget Report**

The fiscal report was presented by Elie Fischhof. Fischhof reported that we are five months into the fiscal year with a \$4.8 million budget. Fischhof continued to report that current operating expenditures for the first 3 cents were \$1.1 million and \$1.1 million in encumbrances. Fischhof also reported that all interfund transfers have been paid. Fischhof advised that we have total expenditures of \$1.8 million which is a total budget expended of 60%. Fischhof also advise expenditures for the 4th and 5th cents have a budget of \$600 thousand, were \$143,973.89 in actuals and \$728,426.11 in encumbrances. 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 confirmed that the budget appeared to be in order.

**IX. Director/Staff Report – Sean Doherty**

Sean Doherty, Tourism Director, provided a recap of the Tourism Department Board Report. Doherty reported the Florida legislature is in session and multiple TDT bills have been proposed. Doherty continued to report the annual tourism celebration is scheduled for Friday, May 10, 2024. Doherty advised Sunseeker is open, and the Hampton Inn has reopened.

**X. Citizen's Comments**

Kaley Miller, Punta Gorda Airport reported the airport is in the planning process for expanding the terminal and has received a \$10 million grant to cover a portion of the terminal expansion.

Doug Izzo, Englewood Chamber of Commerce advised the next Let's Eat Englewood will be coming up in September.

**XI. Council Comments**

David Haynes advised business is doing good. Haynes continued to report there are still 15 properties that are still being repaired from Hurricane Ian. Haynes also reported they are raising their rates anywhere from 5-10% over last year's rates

Councilmember Donna Peterman reported that the City of Punta Gorda has updated their LDRs (Land Development Regulations) after 10 years.

Councilmember William Dryburgh advised the Charlotte Sports Park looks great after the repairs.

Keith Farlow reported that season is here, and they are busy.

Kathy Burnam advised the tiki bar at Fisherman's Village will be shutting down for a private wedding next weekend. Burnam continued to advise the suites are staying very busy and season is going well.

Gary Butler reported they took advantage of the Tourism Departments Co-Op program and in January online referrals became the top indicator of how visitor heard about the museum before visiting. Butler continued to report on January 6 they held their first Gala at Sunseeker which had 300 guests for the fundraising event. Butler also reported the museum has a new virtual reality photo booth that allows visitors to have their picture taken with backgrounds showing our military out in the field.

Robin Madden reported they are down two properties. Madden continued to report rental property rates have increased. Madden also reported in January they were really quiet, but they are very busy now.

Commissioner Christopher Constance reported the Greek Fest is this weekend and Rays spring training is back.

**XII. Next Scheduled Meeting**

The next scheduled TDC meeting is at 9:00 a.m. Friday, April 19, 2024. The meeting will be held in the B-106 Conference Room, Administration Building, 18500 Murdock Circle, Port Charlotte.

**XIII. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 10:24 a.m.

**Approved**