



**PUNTA GORDA
ENGLEWOOD BEACH**

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The Charlotte Harbor Gulf Island Coast

Charlotte County Tourist Development Council Meeting Minutes Friday, June 20, 2025

A meeting of the Charlotte County Tourist Development Council was held Friday, June 20, 2025, at Murdock Administration Building, Conference Room B-106, 18500 Murdock Circle, Port Charlotte, FL.

Members Present

Commissioner Christopher Constance
Mayor Councilmember Deborah Lux
Kathy Burnam
Keith Farlow
Gary Butler
Robin Madden
David Haynes

Members Absent

Councilmember Janis Denton
Kelly Williamson

Staff Present

Emily Lewis, Deputy County Administrator
Sean Doherty, Tourism Development Director
David Moscoso, Assistant County Attorney
Lois Croft, Public Relations Manager
Maureen Morgenthien, Marketing Manager
Robyn Price, Meeting Sales Manager
Amy Cantrell, Sales Assistant
Kimberly Powell, Admin. Services Coordinator
Aimee Blenker, Leisure Sales Manager
Jerry Jones, Film & Digital Media
Charles Bear, Tax Collector's Office
Roger Davis, Fiscal Services
Michelle Oquendo, IT Business Analyst
Sean Walter, Sport Sales Manager
Brynja Phipps, Admin. Services Coordinator

Guests

Chris Lopez, FRLA
Kaley Miller, Punta Gorda Airport – Director of Marketing & Communications
Suzie Smith, Punta Gorda Airport – Sales & Marketing Manager
Hana Dodds, Downs & St. Germain
Elie Fischhoff, Citizen
Jeff Lustig, Citizen

I. Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner Christopher Constance called the Charlotte County Tourist Development Council (TDC) meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

- II. **Roll Call**
A quorum was established.
- III. **Approval of the Agenda**
A motion was made by Kathy Burnam and seconded by Keith Farlow to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.
- IV. **Citizens' Input**
There was no citizens' input on any agenda items.
- V. **Approval of TDC Meeting Minutes**
A motion was made by Kathy Burnam and seconded by Keith Farlow, to approve the April 18, 2025, minutes. Motion carried unanimously.
- VI. **Budget Report – Roger Davis**
The fiscal report was presented by Roger Davis. Davis advised we are eight months into fiscal year 2025 with the first three cent budget of 6.1 million. Davis advised that operating expenditures are \$2,971,503.00, transfers \$754.819 with \$1,599,159.00 encumbered. Total budget expended is 61.15%. The largest portion were for promo activities advertising with \$876,114, and promo activities general at \$406,741. Davis reported the tourist development trust fund, fourth and fifth cent, total of \$600,000 with \$182,436.00 remaining for advertising promotional activities.
- VII. **Tourist Tax Report – Charles Bear**
The tax collector report was presented by Charles Bear. Bear reported that 3rd Quarter 2025 April collections were at \$721,180.47. Bear continued to report that, year to date, there were 598 suspect accounts on file. Bear reported inactive suspect accounts found in the 3rd quarter are 2. Bear reported 3054 active accounts with 20 new accounts added.
- VIII. **Budget Review**
Gary Butler confirmed that the budget is in order.
- IX. **Sales Tax Focus Group**
A motion was made by Kathy Burnam nominating Gary Butler for the Sales Tax Focus Group. The motion was seconded by Robin Madden and the motion carried unanimously.
- X. **Director/Staff Report – Sean Doherty**
Sean Doherty, Tourism Director, provided a legislative update. Doherty highlighted the success of the Tourism Celebration event. Doherty announced Alexa Bombinger as a new intern for the department. Doherty discussed new marketing campaigns, including a focus on culinary experiences under the "Flavor Coast" concept. Doherty discussed the success of various sporting events held locally and informed of upcoming events. Doherty emphasized the importance of hosting meetings and conventions, mentioning recent successes and upcoming opportunities. Doherty provided an update on public relations efforts, including partnerships with media representatives and travel trade familiarization tours. Doherty discussed the importance of educating frontline staff and the success of the Gulf Coast Host training program and plans for future presentations.

XI. Citizen's Comments

Chris Lopez from FRLA discussed the legislative update. Lopez provided an update for transient occupancy. Lopez discussed restaurant reservation piracy. Lopez reported that FRLA donated \$5000 in scholarships at the Tourism event and discussed future scholarships.

Kaley Miller from the Punta Gorda Airport provided an update on the transition to in-house terminal advertising. Miller introduced Suzie Smith as the new Sales & Marketing Manager of the Punta Gorda Airport.

Jeff Lustig, Citizen, discussed the importance of advertising educational programs available in Charlotte County.

XII. Council Comments

David Haynes discussed the tourism event. Haynes provided a market update and noted progress since the hurricane, with more properties opening. Haynes announced that visitors are already booking for next year.

Keith Farlow discussed the tourism event. Farlow discussed that businesses suffered from the lack of beach parking and thanked the Commissioners for reopening the beach parking.

Gary Butler discussed the museum being closed for 2 weeks for renovation, and that the museum is doing well. Butler notes a 40% increase in tours.

Kathy Burnam provided an update on Fishermen's Village. Burnam discussed the tourism event. Burnam provided an update on a new tenant for Fishermen's Village, Ästhetik Spa & Skincare. Burnam informed of the July 4th celebration and fireworks at Fishermen's Village.

Robin Madden thanked everyone for her Tourism Hall of Fame award. Madden reported rentals being 50% down. Madden discussed heavy traffic going on and off the island due to workers repairing properties.

Commissioner Christopher Constance thanked everyone for a great meeting.

XIII. Next Scheduled Meeting

The next scheduled TDC meeting is at 9:00 a.m. Friday, August 15, 2025. The meeting will be held in Conference Room B-106, 18500 Murdock Circle, Port Charlotte, FL 33948.

XIV. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:38 a.m.

Approved