



PUNTA GORDA ENGLEWOOD BEACH

The Charlotte Harbor Gulf Island Coast

Charlotte County Tourist Development Council Meeting Minutes Friday, December 15, 2023

A meeting of the Charlotte County Tourist Development Council was held Friday, December 15, 2023, at Murdock Administration Building, Conference Room B-106, 18500 Murdock Circle, Port Charlotte, FL.

Members Present

Commissioner Christopher Constance
Kathy Burnam
Kelly Williamson
Robin Madden
David Haynes
Gary Butler

Members Absent

Councilmember Donna Peterman
Councilmember William Dryburgh
Keith Farlow

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

Jim Finch, Charlotte Harbor Events & Conference Center
Dave DiMaggio, Aqua Marketing & Communications
Joseph St. Germain, Downs & St. Germain
Tanna Horner, Peace River Botanical & Sculpture Gardens
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 9:03 a.m.

II. Roll Call

A quorum was established.

III. Approval of the Agenda

A motion was made by Kathy Burnam and seconded by David Haynes, 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 Gary Butler and seconded by Kathy Burnam, to approve the October 13, 2023, minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

VI. Tourist Tax Report – Dan Roe

The tax collector report was presented by Dan Roe. Roe reported the fourth quarter of fiscal year 22-23, August through September collections were \$1,329,447.67. Roe continued to report that total collections for fiscal year 22-23 were \$7,509,916.22, which is down 3.3% over last year. Roe advised first quarter of this year October collection is \$365,015.53. Roe continued to advise that there were 565 suspect accounts.

VII. Budget Report

The fiscal report was presented by Elie Fischhof. Fischhof reported on the final expenditures for fiscal year 2023. Fischhof continued to report that with a budget of 4.2 million from the first 3 cents, operating expenditures were approximately \$3 million, and all transfers were completed. The total budget that had been expended was approximately 93%. From the 4th and 5th cents which had a \$600,000 budget of which approximately \$600,000 was expended. Fischhof advised fiscal year 2024 has a budget of \$4.8 million with 1.2 million in actual operating expenditures. Fischhof continued to advise that the fiscal year 2024 budget was expended 46%. Fischhof also advise expenditures for the 4th and 5th cents were \$30,984.68 in actuals and \$829,514.32 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. Presentations

Joseph St. Germain, Downs & St. Germain presented the Annual Visitor Tracking & Research Report.

Lisa Gallucci, Visual Arts Center and Tanna Horner, Peace River Botanical & Sculpture Gardens presented the Arts in Action partnership.

X. Director/Staff Report – Sean Doherty

Sean Doherty, Tourism Director, provided a recap of the Tourism Department Board Report. Doherty reported Sunseeker has opened and is having their ribbon cutting today. Doherty continued to report American Cruise Lines is starting their Florida Gulf Coast & Keys seasonal cruises which will dock in Punta Gorda on the sixth day of the cruise. Doherty advised the inaugural cruise departs on December 19.

XI. Citizen's Comments

Jim Finch, Charlotte Harbor Events & Conference Center reported on the event activity for the first quarter of fiscal year 24. Finch reported they have had 51 event bookings. Finch continued to report the event center is busy with new and return business.

XII. Council Comments

David Haynes advised business is holding steady. Haynes continued to report guests are booking closer to their arrival date and there are still some vacancies for this coming season.

Robin Madden reported they are down two large properties, but they just added one more property. Madden continued to report rental property rates are increasing. Madden also reported October and November were the best in the last five years.

Kelly Williamson reported that the hotel is very busy. Williamson also reported they will be closing the tiki for the first time ever for one night in February for a single event.

Kathy Burnam advised they had their largest turnout for their Lighting of the Village on November 18. Burnam also advised they have their festival of lights is going on until the end of the year.

Gary Butler reported they are working with Sunseeker to host on January 6 their first ever Patriots Gala. Butler continued to report the museum is busier than ever, ticket sales for the theater are up 60% year over year. Butler also reported they had their first full length Broadway musical at the theater, White Christmas. Butler advised they were approached by the National Association of submarine veterans and the Military Heritage Museum is going to host their organization to display artifacts.

XIII. 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.

XIV. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:36 a.m.

Approved