

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS - JOINT MEETING

MAY 5, 2008

A joint meeting was held at the Murdock Administration Complex in Room 119, Port Charlotte, Florida. The following members were present: Chairman D'Aprile, Commissioner Moore, Commissioner Cummings, Commissioner Loftus, and Commissioner Duffy. Also in attendance were Interim County Administrator Baltz, County Attorney Knowlton, Deputy Clerk Manley, Council Member Smith-Mooney, Council Member Albers, City Manager Kunik, City Attorney Levin, School Board Chairman Swift, School Board Vice Chairman Rendell, School Board Member Messina, School Board Member Sifrit, and School Board Member Miller. The following members were absent: None.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 PM by Tom D'Aprile, Chair, Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners.

II. Welcome and introduction of Workshop participants

Tom D'Aprile, Chair, Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners requested that workshop participants introduce themselves for the records.

III. Presentation of packet materials

Steven Ellis, Planner II, Charlotte County Growth Management  
Joan LeBeau, Chief Planner, City of Punta Gorda  
Dr. Roseann Samson, District Support Assistant Superintendent,  
Charlotte County Public Schools  
Dr. Jerry Olivo, Director, Maintenance Operations  
Dr. Donna Widmeyer, Assistant Superintendent, School Support  
John Weant, Director, Information and Communication Systems

Mr. Ellis explained that the presentation includes residential, land use changes, permitting and school concurrency updates; that most of the data to be discussed is included in the packet material; and that the presentation by the School Board team

would follow. Mr. Ellis and Ms. LeBeau previewed slides of the 2007 Final Development Review Committee (DRC) approvals reflecting 21 projects for a total of 3,897 lot/units countywide and 6 projects approved for the City for a total of 396 lots/units. Ms. LeBeau commented on adjustments as a result of some re-built projects and residential projects that were destroyed as a result of hurricane Charley. Ms. LeBeau showed a slide of a map reflecting locations of City Projects with final DRC approval in 2007 and a summary of lots from 2005-2007; and indicated there was a total increase of 250 in the City and County combined, but that the City numbered 353 versus the County at 3,897. Mr. Ellis stated 2007 Land Use Changes that may impact student population in the county shows density gained 2,431 in the Urban Service Area (USA) and lot or changed to other uses by -601; and previewed 2007 countywide, West County, Mid County, South and East County combined Land Use slides.

Mr. Ellis referenced the chart on new County Residential Building Permits for 2003-2007 that reflected 915 for detached single family, 32 duplexes, 58 multi-family units comprised of three or more, and 107 mobile homes that may impact the school population; stated that because this is the fifth year of having these meetings we were able to combine the five-year period and show what the growth looked like according to residential permitting across that period; and showed residential permit maps for the five-year period countywide, West County, Mid County, South and East County combined. Mr. Ellis explained that the tanking of the housing market had a severe impact on the numbers this year and indicated that we are back to pre-hurricane Charley levels.

Ms. LeBeau summarized the chart on new City Residential Building Permits for 2004-2007 that may affect student population across the City; indicated that the City is down in 2007 a third of what it was in 2006; that there were two small trends starting to emerge, one that there were a small number of affordable housing being developed, and the high-end development was still actively seeking permits; and indicated there were only 37 detached single family permits this year.

Chairman D'Aprile requested a comparison between pre-hurricane Charley to the present day. Ms. LeBeau advised 246 single family residential permits were pulled in 2003.

IV. Joint Staff Working Group's School Concurrency Project Status Report

Mr. Ellis summarized the School Concurrency Timeline and Tasks Remaining; indicated that much of the front labor was done by the school portion of the team; and that there were numbers, formulas, and various other things that had to be arrived at to determine capacity and level of service before documents could be created. Mr. Ellis explained that a staff working group was formed in summer 2007; that the base Interlocal Agreement (ILA) was created in 2003 and in January 2008 drafts of the updated ILA were available. Mr. Ellis stated that the base document was sufficient and the only thing needed was to include the changes mandated by school concurrency; and other than that there is very little change from the document produced in 2003. Mr. Ellis advised that a draft of the Public School Facilities Element (PSFE), one for the City and one for the County, that must be consistent with the respective Comprehensive Plans, each other, and the ILA, was produced.

Mr. Ellis reported that approval by the City Planning Commission & County Planning & Zoning Board was gained in March 2008; and that in April 2008 the Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners and Punta Gorda City Council approved the package for transmittal to the Department of Community Affairs (DCA), which occurred the following week. Mr. Ellis advised tasks remaining are to receive and respond to DCA's Objections, Recommendations, and Comments (ORC) Report, which is expected the latter part of June 2008; that City and County adoption hearings are then required to finalize it, and the School Board, City Council, & Board of County Commissioners will need to come together at that point to execute the updated ILA; and that within 120 days of adoption the City and County must amend their Land Development Regulations (LDR's) to reflect the changes.

V. School District Building Status Update

Dr. Samson reported that the school group enjoyed working with City and County staffs and previewed slides on Baker Center, Neil Armstrong Elementary School, Charlotte High School, Peace River Elementary School, Punta Gorda Middle School, and East Elementary School, as referenced under Tab 6 of the packet material. Dr. Samson advised that Baker Center opened August 13, 2007, Neil Armstrong Elementary School opened October 10, 2007, and Peace River Elementary School opened December 3, 2007; indicated that these are beautiful schools the community can be proud of for years to come; and that under the current class size amendment regulations our elementary schools will house approximately 900 students.

Dr. Samson reported that Punta Gorda Middle School is almost complete; commended the great teamwork efforts by the County and City and great use of taxpayer funds on this project; indicated open house is May 27, 2008; and students would return to this school August 2008.

Dr. Samson advised that some of the slides are a little dated as the projects are more completed than when the photos were taken; stated that East Elementary School, Neil Armstrong Elementary School, and Peace River Elementary School, are prototypes from the tested and true plan of Sallie Jones Elementary School, thereby saving additional design plan costs. Dr. Samson reported that Dr. Jerry Olivo presented to the School Board a medallion signifying that Neil Armstrong Elementary School is LEAD certified. Dr. Samson pointed out that Baker Center was the first public school in the State of Florida to be LEAD certified; that Neil Armstrong Elementary School was the first elementary school, and second school behind Baker Center to be LEAD certified; and that indications are Peace River Elementary School, East Elementary School, and hopefully Punta Gorda Middle School, will follow in those footsteps; and commented on the timeframe process.

Dr. Samson previewed slides of the 1926 Charlotte High School building and indicated various sections are encased in plastic wrap partly because of the acid wash for the brick; and pointed out Punta Gorda Middle School and the Performing Arts building on the campus site.

Councilmember Smith-Mooney and Commissioner Loftus complimented the school district and staffs in putting the schools back together and in such an energy efficient manner. Chairman D'Aprile asked when Charlotte High School would be completed. Dr. Samson stated that it is anticipated the first phase of students would move into the 9th and 10th grade buildings in March or April 2009; indicated that some Charlotte High School students have been on the permanent campus for about two years in the old two-story building and modular campus; and that barring unforeseen circumstances everything will be complete July 2010.

VI. School District Capital Plan for 2008-2009 (Companion Document)

Dr. Olivo advised that budgeting and the five-year capital plan is normally done in late June or early July and at that point the standard five-year plan will be submitted; that Tab 7 of the packet material contains a companion document to the standard School District five-year capital plan; that the companion document shows the total amount of classrooms, the existing capacity at those locations for the year 2011-2012 and 2012-2013, identifies the ongoing process with respect to removal of portables and/or modulars making permanent classrooms, and at the end of the day in those particular locations there is a net capacity of zero.

VII. School Boundary Update

Dr. Widmeyer stated that when it was determined how large the rebuilt Neil Armstrong Elementary, Peace River Elementary, and East Elementary Schools would be the School Board looked at the total population across the elementary schools and took the opportunity to have a balanced student population at each of those schools. Dr. Widmeyer reported that the School Board began working on this about three (3) years ago, a draft proposal went around the county, and this year the people involved in the move were notified. Dr. Widmeyer advised that the actual implementation of boundaries for seven (7) of the schools would take place during the next school year and that East Elementary and Sallie Jones Elementary would take place the following year.

VIII. Closing Comments

Councilmember Smith-Mooney asked Dr. Samson to expand on what "on hold" means as to the "Business City" and if there is a way to get it started through some alternate means. Dr. Samson explained that a report last year indicated East Elementary would be used for the building of "Business City"; that "Business City" is a curriculum element that allows various levels of grade children, with a 7th and 8th grade component, to have a curriculum-rich experience in how to manage money and how to manage a business. Dr. Samson reported that the children would continue being sent to Tampa for the Business City part of the curriculum and that only the physical building itself is on hold due to costs involved. Dr. Samson stated that Representative Mahoney's office is working with Dr. Desjardins to determine if any grants can be formulated.

Representative Mahoney's aide Valerie Gunther advised that currently an appropriations request or earmark in the next budget cycle is being worked on; that a new staff member in Washington, D.C. is doing research into other grant possibilities; and that she should make a report in the next month.

Dr. Samson reported there has been a temporary detour on Lemon Bay High School and Meadow Park Elementary School and the improvements in updating all our facilities to make them hurricane safe and re-built to hurricane standards, but that those projects will go forward at some point in time.

Councilmember Smith-Mooney inquired if our "Business City" is intended to be the same as the one in Tampa, and if it was started by Junior Achievement. Dr. Samson stated that it was initially started by Gus Stravos and Junior Achievement and that the "Business City" proposed here will hopefully be upgraded and better.

Charlotte County Board Members and Punta Gorda City Council Members expressed congratulations on the LEAD certified schools, appreciation for the efforts on energy efficiencies, and thanks to all involved in getting the schools back in operation. Mr.

Swift commented on the concurrency bill, indicated that most issues that were objectionable to our groups have been removed, and that the bill as it stands should not affect our timelines.

IX. Adjourned 2:40 PM

Signature on file in Commission Minutes  
Chairman

ATTEST:

BARBARA T. SCOTT, CLERK  
OF THE CIRCUIT COURT AND  
EX-OFFICIO TO THE BOARD  
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By: Signature on file in Commission Minutes  
Deputy Clerk

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