

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS & PUNTA GORDA CITY COUNCIL

JOINT MEETING

SEPTEMBER 12, 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 County Administrator Baltz, County Attorney Knowlton, Deputy Clerk Lansing, Mayor Friedman, Vice Mayor Goldberg, Council Member Albers, Council Member Smith-Mooney, Council Member Wallace, and City Manager Kunik. The following members were absent: None. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

I. Water Treatment Plant Off-line Reservoir Rezoning Application

Chairman D'Aprile opened the meeting, noted the topics for discussion, and introduced Howard Kunik as the first presenter.

City Manager Kunik, gave a detailed timeline of events related to Item I and opined rezoning would be the key to moving forward with the reservoir.

Commissioner Cummings indicated since this is quasi-judicial he would prefer to reserve his comments until after the hearing.

No Public Input.

II. Event and Conference Center Update, Parks, Recreation & Cultural Resources will provide a presentation at the meeting.

Jim Finch, Recreation Supervisor advised he will be responsible for operating the Events Center once opened, provided a detailed visual presentation by location within the Events Center, and noted the completion timeline.

Chairman D'Aprile questioned how a tractor trailer is able drive into the building and turn around within the Hibiscus Hall. Mr. Finch explained the procedure.

Councilmember Wallace asked about public access to the east side of River Walk especially for those not attending the events. Vice Mayor Goldberg commented on the beauty of the building and asked about on-site staffing. Mr. Finch described the parking situation and provided detailed staffing information.

Mr. Kunik indicated City Council would be meeting to discuss the sign variance next week. **Commissioner Duffy** asked what type of sign. Mr. Kunik advised it would display and scroll the events. Mr. Finch read the full description of the sign. County Administrator Baltz asked for an update of bookings. Mr. Finch advised there were 81 scheduled event dates confirmed through June, 2009 and described the bookings.

Chairman D'Aprile asked about the opening and was advised a soft opening was scheduled for November 5th with a Grand Opening weekend set for January 10th and 11th, 2009.

No Public Input.

III. Aquí Esta Drive Improvements Update

Dan Quick, Public Works reported on September 10, 2008, Purchasing received 14 bids on the Aquí Esta project, noted they are checking for lowest bid, advised they will transmit the information next week, said it will be brought before the Board at the October 14, 2008 Regular BCC Meeting, and described the post approval process. Vice Mayor Goldberg asked what the first phase would be related to the bridge. Mr. Quick explained that was up to the developer, advised they prioritize, and opined it would be started early since it would take a long time to complete.

No Public input.

Mayor Larry Friedman questioned if the bridge would be completed prior to hurricane season since it is critical to have the bridge open for possible evacuations. Mr. Quick agreed with the importance and stated the subject would be addressed with the contractors.

IV. Shreve/Pompano Road Improvements Update

Public Works Director, Rick Keene, provided a detailed update, mentioned staff meetings and reviews, and noted an anticipated completion date sometime in October.

Commissioner Cummings questioned sidewalk locations. Mr. Kunik provided additional sidewalk information and described sidewalk project timelines related to approved Sales Tax Dollars.

Chairman D'Aprile asked about applications submitted, permitting, and requested a completion timeline. Mr. Keene provided a detailed response.

V. Councilmember/Commissioner Comments

Councilmember Smith-Mooney asked about the bridge Banner Brackets, opined they were in bad shape, and explained they were damaging the banners. Mr. Kunik advised the topic was on the CRA Joint Meeting Agenda.

Commissioner Duffy asked for information related to the Veterans Ceremony scheduled in the park. Mayor Friedman explained what he knew. **Commissioner Duffy** suggested they do something special to honor the Veterans, recommended they be presented with a Proclamation, and received consensus to attend and present the Proclamation.

Commissioner Moore asked for an update on the Cooper Street expansion. Mr. Kunik advised Phase One has been approved, said the bid will be awarded at the first meeting in October, noted the use of recover funds that would not need to be returned, and said there is money still left in the fund. Ms. Smith-Mooney asked about deadlines and whether they could use the extra funds on other projects. Mr. Kunik responded.

Mayor Friedman opined everyone shares the view that these meetings work, said they will miss Ms. Smith-Mooney, **Chairman D'Aprile** and **Commissioner Moore** at future meetings, personally thanked them for being a productive part of the team, and wished them the best.

Commissioner Loftus indicated the Mayor said it all. Councilmember Albers also thanked them. **Chairman D'Aprile** opined he will miss serving the Community, noted they will continue their support, and said he has been happy to work for the Community the last 8 years.

ADJOURNED: 9:50 AM

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

JL