

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**October 1, 2009**

A Town Hall Meeting sponsored by the Charlotte County Young Professionals (CCYP) was held at the Mid-County Regional Library, Port Charlotte Florida. The following members of the Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners were present: Chairman Duffy, Commissioner Starr, Commissioner Loftus and Commissioner Skidmore. Also in attendance was Minutes Supervisor Manley. The meeting was called to order at **6:00 PM**.

CCYP President Michael Neufeld, as meeting moderator, welcomed speakers and other attendees and explained this forum allows younger citizens of Charlotte County who are unable to attend County Commission or City Council meetings or workshops during daytime hours an opportunity to ask questions directly to county leaders.

**County Commissioner Chairman Tricia Duffy, Commissioners Robert Skidmore, Bob Starr, and Richard Loftus,** Punta Gorda City Manager Howard Kunik, Punta Gorda City Councilmember Bill Albers, Sheriff Bill Cameron, and Assistant to Congressman Tom Rooney, Leah Valenti, introduced themselves and provided a brief outline of what brought them to the area and their respective positions.

Speakers provided answers to questions from attendees and pre-submitted questions from members of the CCYP who were unable to attend and offered comments related to roles of their respective offices, governmental issues, status of projects pending or delayed, economic development encouragement, the need to create more jobs in the County, concerns of increased vandalism due to high grass and low maintenance of so many abandoned homes and blighted communities, public access to waterfront, offshore drilling, interest from potential prospective businesses, the County Comprehensive Plan, U.S. 41 corridor, and opportunities for young professionals or youth to be introduced, contribute, or become more involved in County issues. Mr. Kunik pointed out the Charlotte Sun publishes a weekly report that he prepares on what is happening around the City. **Chairman Duffy** said members of Team Punta Gorda indicated a willingness to help establish a Team Port Charlotte. Ms. Valenti indicated State

Representatives, Congressmen, and elected officials work very closely together; commented on areas where the Congressman can help; stated her office is in the old County Courthouse in Punta Gorda; and that she is available to assist where possible.

Mr. Newfeld introduced members of the CCYP and indicated the goals for today are to educate the members and open dialogue to the elected officials; gave a power point presentation outlining the CCYP organization, its purpose, goals, and what future generations represent; and indicated its number one goal is to have young professionals in Charlotte County and bridge the generation gaps.

**ADJOURNED: 8:15 PM**

Signature on file in Commission Minutes  
Chairman

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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