

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

December 10, 2010

A meeting was held at the Murdock Administration Complex in Room 119, Port Charlotte, Florida.

Members present were: Chairman Starr, Commissioner Constance, Commissioner Deutsch, Commissioner Duffy, Commissioner Skidmore, County Administrator Sandrock, County Attorney Knowlton, Deputy Clerk Carleton, Mayor Goldberg, Council Member Friedman, Council Member Keesling, Council Member Wallace, City Manager Howard Kunik, City Attorney Levin. The following members were absent: Vice Mayor Albers.

The meeting was called to order at **9:00 AM** followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Introductions

Mayor Goldberg introduced the Council members, Howard Kunik, City Manager, and noted that Councilman Albers was absent. **Chairman Starr** introduced members of the Commission and Ray Sandrock, County Administrator. Mayor Goldberg welcomed new Commissioners and Council Members.

I. South County Gateway Overlay Status Report

Jie Shao and Steve Ellis provided a history, project detail, and update.

Ms. Shao fielded inquiries by Mayor Goldberg related to the implementation plan and placement on a future agenda. A representative of Punta Gorda's Urban Design Division addressed concerns by **Commissioner Skidmore** regarding the incorporation of all public opinion and input between the two public bodies and stated that if there are major changes it would be brought back to the Board. Mr. Kunik and **Commissioner Deutsch** inquired about the public hearing process. Ms. Shao responded in detail.

Tom Cavanaugh of Team Punta Gorda gave an update and summary of the Gateway Project, thanked the City and County Growth Management Departments, acknowledged the efforts of the late Audrey Seay, and asked the project be incorporated into the City Manager's PowerPoint presentation as another example of collaboration between government and the community in achieving goals.

Council Member Friedman commented on the areas where the County and City have not reached agreement and proposed a list of all changes with areas highlighted where staff cannot reach agreement and the reasons why. Ms. Shao responded that staff would be able to provide such a list.

Commissioner Duffy commented on the definition of ground signs and expressed concern with the use of snipe signs. **Commissioner Skidmore** gave additional detail on signage issues, commented on the difference in size between the County and the City, proposed taking a more aggressive approach in the enforcement of the signs, mentioned signage enforcement in Orlando, and stated staff needs to do a better job of pulling up signs.

Commissioner Deutsch commented on the need to differentiate between the non-profits and the businesses putting up signs and mentioned the problem of visual pollution. Additional discussion on signage ensued. Mr. Sandrock commented on having met with Growth Management the previous day regarding signage and indicated staff is trying to reach a longer term solution. Mr. Kunik commented on the difference in area between the City and the County and mentioned that code officers and volunteers from the Police Department were picking up signage.

Mayor Goldberg commented on the controversial aspects of signage and mentioned documents published by City staff on the City website regarding signage. **Commissioner Deutsch** mentioned the positive aspects of getting the Chambers of Commerce involved as well as getting the support of the business community. **Commissioner Skidmore** mentioned volunteers doing code enforcement on the weekends, the Sheriff's Office having citizens on patrol, proposed writing a letter to Sheriff Cameron regarding the donation of citizens' time to prevent crime, and mentioned complaints from volunteers regarding high grass. **Commissioner Constance** commented on types of prohibited signs and inquired about the sign ordinance in Punta Gorda to which Mayor Goldberg responded.

Commissioner Duffy gave additional detail related to signs prohibited in Charlotte County. Mayor Goldberg commented on businesses that have City code violations but are located in unincorporated areas where the City doesn't have jurisdiction.

II. "Results Through Collaboration: The Power of Partnerships" presentation

Mr. Kunik gave a PowerPoint presentation per packet material previously given to Team Punta Gorda at their annual meeting.

Commissioner Duffy inquired about the downtown streetscape related to volunteers helping with landscaping and about volunteers in the Police and Fire Departments. Mr. Sandrock indicated there were volunteers in the Sheriff's Department but did not know about the Fire Department and stated that staff has been reaching out to encourage volunteers. **Commissioner Duffy** inquired as to what the volunteers do in the Punta Gorda Fire Department. Mr. Kunik responded in detail.

Mayor Goldberg noted the demonstration of the power of community in Punta Gorda.

III. Discussion of City Council-Council Commissioner Pairings

Mayor Goldberg commented on the City Council-County Commissioner pairings, noted the agenda packet indicates the Fourth Quarter 2010 Amended, and stated it should say First Quarter if the proposal is to be continued. **Chairman Starr** spoke in support of continuing the proposal for the first quarter and gave reasons why.

Commissioner Duffy gave a brief history and reasons for doing the pairings and spoke in favor. **BOARD CONSENSUS TO CONTINUE THE PAIRINGS FOR THE FIRST QUARTER.**

Mr. Kunik commented on the Economic Development meeting from the previous day, referred to a suggestion made by **Commissioner Deutsch** related to the partnerships between the County and the City, and mentioned the possibility of adding new items to reports related to contracts between the city and county.

IV. Aqui Esta Status Update

Brian Barnes presented a handout to attendees and gave an update on the Aqui Esta construction.

Council Member Friedman indicated he had received emails related to the sidewalk construction and asked for an estimate as to when the project would be completed. Mr. Barnes responded in detail. **Commissioner Constance** inquired as to the assessment of impact of traffic of the ancillary roads around Aqui Esta due to construction. Bob Halfhill responded.

Commissioner Skidmore discussed the Metropolitan Planning Organization's (MPO's) recent events, as its Alternate due to the retirement of **Commissioner Loftus**, thanked Gary Harrell for his efforts as interim MPO director, commented on the upcoming annual committee appointments for new board members, mentioned sitting on

the Regional Planning Council with **Commissioner Duffy**, mentioned the many projects funded by the MPO, commented on his hopes for the new MPO Director and Board for the coming year, and bringing in the Airport Authority as an integral part of the community.

Commissioner Duffy agreed with **Commissioner Skidmore's** comments, voiced her hopes to move forward in a positive direction, mentioned competition with other counties for funding, opined that the MPO needs to be kept separate from other MPO's, noted her enthusiasm for the new MPO Director, voiced gratitude for the efforts of Gary Harrell, and mentioned the selection of new representatives for the MPO at an upcoming meeting.

Chairman Starr concurred with **Commissioners Skidmore** and **Duffy** regarding the MPO situation and commented that, if selected for the MPO Board, his goal is to move forward to protect Charlotte County's interests.

Commissioner Deutsch commented on the importance of working together to achieve a positive outcome. Council Member Friedman welcomed the new Council Members and Commissioners.

Commissioner Constance addressed the MPO issue, mentioned attending the South County Coalition Meeting, commented on being the representative in the District where the City and airport is located, and stated he is looking forward to the opportunity to serve.

ADJOURNED: 10:12 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**

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