

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

February 25, 2011

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

The following Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) present were: Chairman Starr, Commissioner Constance, Commissioner Deutsch, Commissioner Duffy, and Commissioner Skidmore. The following Charlotte County Airport Authority (CCAA) Board Members and Officials present were Chairman Gary Stasko, Vice Chairman James Herston, Commissioner Kathleen Coppola, Commissioner Don Lee, Commissioner Pam Seay, Director James W. Parish, and Attorney Tom Garrard. Also in attendance was Assistant County Administrator Kelly Shoemaker, County Attorney Jeanette S. Knowlton, and Deputy Clerk Joanne Lansing. The following members were absent: CCAA Executive Director Gary P. Quill. The meeting was called to order at **10:00 AM** followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Introductions:

Chairman Gary Stasko gave opening statements. **Commissioner Robert Skidmore** requested the group address future meetings and opined the need to meet twice a year. **(There was Group Consensus to add Agenda Item VI. to Set Future Meetings)**

I. Compatible Land Use/Avigation Easements (Airport Authority)

Chairman Stasko said Commercial Services are increasing and expressed the need for the Airport Authority to become more involved in Avigation Easement decisions prior to Public Hearings. **Commissioner Christopher Constance** asked about possible changes related to traffic patterns. Assistant Director James W. Parish explained Avigation Easements, said the Air Traffic Controller Tower is currently under construction, noted future plans to bring in additional traffic, expressed concern with realtor perception of the airport, and requested the CCAA be involved in future planning related to land use. **Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch** opined the need for a liaison between the Airport Authority and the Board of County Commissioners. **Commissioner Tricia Duffy** recommended the CCAA meet with the Board of Realtors and the County's Growth Management Department related to new developments. Mr. Parish

suggested the CCAA information packet be included within the developer's initial paperwork. **Commissioner Skidmore** asked Administration to direct associated staff to communicate with the Airport Authority. Commissioner Pam Seay agreed and said they should direct their staff as well. Commissioner Kathleen Coppola mentioned a realtor disclosure that must be provided to potential property owners advising the presence of an airport. **(There was Group Consensus to direct their staff to work together on related land issues)**

II. Economic Development/Enterprise Charlotte Airport Park (ECAP) (Airport Authority)

Chairman Stasko explained why the airport should be the central location for Economic Development in the County and remarked on discussions connected to a land swap. **Commissioner Duffy** said an environmental impact study was done on County-owned property near the airport and offered it to the CCAA for review. It was determined that the study was a joint project. Commissioner Seay concurred the airport is key to Economic Development and expressed the importance of being included in future discussions. **Commissioner Deutsch** remarked that the airport is an Economic Engine and commented on the significance of working together. **Commissioner Skidmore** asked if the pond near the airport would be expanded. Mr. Parish explained due to new regulations associated with bodies of water near airports, the pond would probably be filled in. **Commissioner Duffy** commented that certain ponds could be used as solar fields. Related discussion continued.

III. Tourism (Airport Authority)

IV. Promotion with County (Airport Authority)

Chairman Stasko indicated they would discuss Items III. and IV. together, gave statistics related to passengers, said Tourism is the place to invest in the future, and suggested they survey travelers to discover how to attract more people to the airport and the area. **Chairman Starr** proposed savings could be achieved by using an existing model and stressed the importance of confirming the value of the survey. Mr. Parish gave related suggestions and provided impressive passenger statistics. **Commissioner Deutsch** mentioned a survey done in Rhode Island and explained how something similar could be helpful here. **Commissioner Skidmore** commented on potential partnerships and the use of data after it's gathered. Assistant County Administrator Kelly Shoemaker noted issues that the new Tourism

Development Director, Lorah Steiner would be addressing. Commissioner Seay suggested an Airport Authority member sit on the Tourist Development Council. **Commissioner Skidmore** opined statutes might not allow that, directed County Attorney Knowlton to investigate, and advised CCAA members are free to attend Tourist Development Council meetings. The group discussed Bed Taxes and marketing strategies. **Commissioner Constance** agreed that the airport is the gateway to the County. Commissioner Coppola pointed out passengers are a captive audience and recommended the airport distribute information on what Charlotte County has to offer. Chairman Stasko suggested they utilize the big flat screen in the airport and proposed they create a four minute marketing video for visitors to view. **Commissioner Duffy** commented on the County's in-house Production Department and mentioned a video already being shown to prospective businesses. **Commissioner Constance** agreed with marketing Charlotte County at the airport. Mr. Parish talked about past obstacles related to advertising. Chairman Stasko expressed the importance of working together.

V. Piper Road Update (County)

Dan Quick, County Engineer, summarized the project, gave its timeline, noted a change in plan, announced cost savings, confirmed construction will not impact the Air Show, and responded to related inquiries.

VI. Set Future Meetings

Commissioner Skidmore suggested they direct staff to schedule a joint meeting in late summer. **Commissioner Constance** proposed they plan to meet twice a year and more often if necessary.

Citizen Input - None

Comments:

Commissioner Constance asked what facilities were available to the Citizens Air Patrol. Mr. Parish advised the airport currently provides them with a meeting room and offers a major discount for use of a hangar. Mr. Parish also indicated plans to build a joint use meeting room in the future. Commissioner Coppola commented on the positive tone of the meeting and said she is looking forward to working with the group in the future. **Commissioner Skidmore** expressed appreciation for the partnership and offered County support to the CCAA. Commissioner Seay commended group support, noted the value of coordination, and

mentioned airline opportunities. **Commissioner Duffy** said the CCAA did an impressive job of rebuilding the airport after Hurricane Charley. Commissioner Lee announced he is still running tours at the airport. **Chairman Starr** thanked the group for their participation and mentioned possibly moving forward with Enterprise Charlotte Airport Park on County owned property in the future. Vice Chairman Herston thanked **Commissioner Starr** for his support with a potential business relocating to Charlotte County and said he is pleased with the ECAP comment. Commissioner Seay announced a Topping Off Party is scheduled on March 17th to celebrate the partial completion of the Air Traffic Controller Tower and indicated the BOCC would be receiving invitations. Chairman Stasko mentioned the Air Show, announced three survivors of Doolittle Raid would be in attendance, and remarked on a productive meeting.

ADJOURNED: 11:17 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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