

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

August 15, 2011

A Joint Workshop was held at the Murdock Administration Complex in Room B106, Port Charlotte, Florida.

Participants: Commissioner Bob Starr, Chairman; Commissioner Tricia Duffy, Vice-Chair; Commissioner Christopher Constance; Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch; Commissioner Robert Skidmore; Raymond Sandrock, County Administrator; Janette Knowlton, County Attorney; Tom Patton, EDO Director; and Kay Tracy, Business Development Specialist.

ECEC Board of Directors: Lew Albert, President; Todd Rebol, VP; Andrew Stultz, Secretary; Kevin Russell, Past-President; Gary Quill, Julie Mathis, Pat Land, Jon Bednerik, Tom Rice, and Jim Sanders.

Also in attendance was Facilitator, John Rhodes of Moran, Stahl & Boyer and Deputy Clerk Susan Carleton. The following members were absent: Lane Diedrick, Treasurer; Suzanne Graham, Rachelle Youmans, Tom Danahy, Frank Bell, Michael Grant, Joe Clancy, and Roger Peterson.

I. WELCOME REMARKS – COMMISSIONER BOB STARR, CHAIRMAN

Chairman Starr called the Workshop to Order at **1:08 PM**, gave opening comments, and introduced Tom Patton as the new Economic Development Director.

II. CHARLOTTE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC PLAN – JOHN RHODES, MORAN, STAHL & BOYER

Mr. Rhodes made additional opening comments, presented the Economic Development Strategic Plan, paralleled visual slides, outlined the points listed below, and responded to inquiries.

Economic Development: Four Key Questions; Charlotte County: Population/Economic Growth; Level of Employment by Economic Segment; Location Quotient (Ratio to National Average)

Employment by Industry Comparison: 2005 vs. 2009

An unidentified citizen commented on job reduction in the County and its impact.

Strengths/Assets vs. Weaknesses/Challenges; Weaknesses/Challenges

Competition Within the Region

Chairman Starr advised the meeting was advertised as a Board Workshop, therefore, public comments could not be taken.

Economic Development Drivers; Needs of the Next Generation...Different Life Styles From Retirees; Proposed/On-Going Development Opportunities; Punta Gorda Airport Area (ECAP); Vision For Economic Growth; Discussion on Opportunities

General Resource Requirements

Commissioner Skidmore pointed out the amount of water capacity available in Charlotte County. There was brief discussion on water issues.

Key Elements of Economic Development

Action Items

Commissioner Duffy spoke in support of Mr. Rhodes' recommendations, indicated Team Port Charlotte had decided on the name, Parkside, for the Medical Arts District, mentioned the possibility of changing the name of Murdock Village, and commented further. **Chairman Starr** remarked on the Economic Development Working Group, mentioned the Sports Entertainment Complex, and provided additional detail.

Metrics For Monitoring Progress; General Observations; Final Reflection: At the Crossroads

RECESS: 2:49 PM to 3:05 PM

III. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS – TOM PATTON, DIRECTOR, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT; KAY TRACY, BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST

Mr. Patton addressed points made in the presentation, explained the top priority of tying the School Board, State College, and Work Force Training Programs, discussed incentive programs, commented on bio-fuels and solar energy opportunities, provided detail on business incubators, praised the Economic Development staff, commended Mr. Rhodes for his presentation, and responded to inquiries. An unidentified Englewood resident expressed concern with young people leaving the area after completing their education. Kathy Burnam, Marketing Director, Fisherman's Village, welcomed Mr. Patton, applauded the presentation, and commented on her marketing outreach outside the area. **Commissioner Duffy** thanked the ECEC for partnering with the Board and John Rhodes for his presentation. Mr. Patton complimented the Commission for their cooperative efforts.

IV. ADJOURNED: 3:19 PM

Chairman

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

By: _____
Deputy Clerk

sfc