

CHARLOTTE COUNTY AIRPORT AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING – October 18, 2012 – 9:00 A.M.

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1. Call to Order

2. Invocation

10 Commissioner Herston gave the invocation.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Roll Call

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Present: Chair Coppola; Commissioners Herston, Lee, Seay and Stasko; Executive Director Quill; Attorney Garrard; Assistant Director Parish; Mrs. Cauley and Mrs. Schindler. **Others present:** Jim Kaletta, Paul Andrews, Bob Herrington, Councilman Goldberg, Commissioner Deutsch, Carl Parsons, Amy Mapstone, Mr. Mapstone, Paul Piro, Andy Stultz, Gary Bayne, other people from the private sector and a member of the press.

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5. Additions and/or Deletions to the Agenda

25 Mr. Quill deleted 13b) Resolution #2012-06 Joint Participation Agreement FDOT.

6. Citizen's Input

 No citizen's input.

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7. Consent Agenda

Commissioner Seay made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Lee seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

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8. Secretary/Treasurer's Report

 Commissioner Stasko commented that the Accounts Receivable listing is shrinking dramatically and he opined that it is a good thing to see. Mr. Quill reported that FY2012 finished in the black and he commented that with the reduction in flights as a result of Direct Air's demise, the Authority will be entering a challenging budget year. He commented that he is happy that the Accounts Receivable is showing a slow and steady improvement.

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45 **9. Committee Reports**

- a) **Land Use** - Commissioner Herston reported that he continues to see activity in other counties but Charlotte County appears to be lacking. He reported that the other land use issue is the Speedway drainage situation, which will be discussed later.
- 5 b) **Economic Development** - Commissioner Lee reported that the Wrong Brothers will be opening their facility and they will finish the helicopter for the next parade.
- 10 c) **Personnel** - Chair Coppola presented Michael Hicks a plaque for five years of service. Mrs. Schindler accepted the plaque for Michael Hicks. She commented that she has known Michael Hicks for five years and she stated that he is leaving the Airport in February to continue his education in motorcycle mechanics. Chair Coppola commented that the Authority is lucky to have good personnel who do a great job and love the Airport. She commented that an award will be given to a very special lady who has been the Authority’s helicopter pilot on all the parade trips. She commented that she has been steadfast and has done the greatest job she can do and it always has been to perfection. Commissioner Lee presented the award to Amy Mapstone. Chair Coppola commented that Amy Mapstone represents all the real good kids in this town.
- 20 d) **Public Relations/Special Events** - Chair Coppola commented that she had been all over the place this month. She reported that she spoke at a Punta Gorda Tea Party Meeting and she had introduced the Airport Authority candidates. She stated that she attended the ECEC luncheon, attended the Chamber of Commerce dinner with Commissioners Lee and Herston, and attended the Peace River Federated Women’s Republican Club, West Charlotte Republican Club and Northwest Home Owners Association meeting. Commissioner Seay commented that she has been invited to be part of the Charlotte Aerospace Institute Technical Advisory Committee which is part of the Embry Riddle Aeronautical University and it is run out of the Charlotte Technical Center. She explained that if anyone had anybody of high school age in Charlotte County that this is an extraordinary program through the Charlotte Technical Center that will allow high school students to earn the first half of their degree at Embry Riddle University at no cost. She commented that it is a growing part of the offerings of the Charlotte Technical Center and she opined that it has a great connection locally. She commented that the Civil Air Patrol has students involved in that program. She commented that there is a room that has many simulators and she opined that it is an amazing operation. Chair Coppola commented that it is important to attend these fundraisers because of programs like this which will allow kids to attend at no cost for a certain amount of time and earn their degrees and credits towards Embry Riddle. Chair Coppola stated that the Veterans Day and Christmas Parades are coming up. Commissioner Lee commented that the rebuilding of the helicopter will be finished and ready for the Veterans Day Parade. Commissioner Seay complimented the Authority’s staff on the hard work of getting Punta Gorda featured as one the “Best Places under the Sun” in the Allegiant Guide Book. She commented that she hears that the Airport does not market but these are the kinds of things that do result in people coming back.

5 e) **Governmental Liaison** - Commissioner Stasko stated that he has been under the weather this past month because he had his left knee replaced and the right knee tuned up and he is in rehab. He commented that he had nothing to report. Commissioner Seay commented that she had met with Senator Lizabeth Benacquisto, Senator Nancy Detert and others to discuss the Authority's Enabling Legislation. She explained that she presented documents to the Board stating the goals of the Authority and to amend the Enabling Legislation by consolidating prior versions into a single readily available document. She stated that Section II of the original Enabling Legislation has never been repealed and this was the one which caused headaches for the Authority this time around. She commented that this section has been addressed and a change is being recommended based on what the Board Members did in a meeting last month. She commented that there are three parts to it; a summary, Legislative history and a recommendation and all are in a draft form. She commented that the Legislative Delegation does not meet until after the elections. She suggested that after the Board has a chance to review the input from the Legislative Delegation, a presentation should be put together as to what will work for the Authority at the next board meeting. Commissioner Stasko commented that he had spoken with Senator Benacquisto who had met with Commissioner Seay and Representative Roberson and that both of them seem to think that there will not be a problem getting to where the Authority wants to go to. He commented that Commissioner Seay did her homework well. Commissioner Seay commented that it was a slow process and it would not have happened without all of the Board members working and talking with the Legislative Delegation along the way. She commented that if anyone gets a chance to speak with Senator Deter before she does, that it would be great. She commented that she will be meeting with her in the next couple of weeks. She explained that there is only one state representative and four or five senators which make up the Authority's Legislative Delegation. She stated that Representative Roberson is the Chair for the Authority's Legislative Delegation. She commented that he has been very supportive.

30 f) **Metropolitan Planning Organization** - Commissioner Herston reported that at the regular MPO meeting they had said goodbye to Commissioner Starr and Councilman Goldberg. He reported that they presented a Peggy Walters Citizens Mobility Award to Ann V. Mercer. He stated that Ms. Mercer is 94 and a founding member of the Citizens Trails Committee, a member of the MPO Citizens Advisory Committee and the Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee. He stated that she was awarded this award for being a lead advocate in the County's Rails to Trails Program. He reported that he and Director Harrington will be attending the MPOC, a statewide organization workshop on combining the metropolitan MPOs around the state on October 24th. He stated that they are trying to get ahead of the situation before it gets ahead of them. He reported that he will be attending the regular MPOAC director, staff and governing board meeting on October 25th. He commented that since he is unopposed he is officially reelected, and he asked if a MPO representative can be named in a committee prior to November. Mr. Herrington commented that they are trying to get the Chairman and officers of the MPO appointed. He stated that with an election years sit throws a wrench in who is going to be on the MPO. He commented that

5 they are looking at February before they can name officers. He commented that they
have to make their appointments to different state committees by the end of
December and he stated that the Authority's schedule will fit in with what they are
doing and he appreciated that. Attorney Garrard opined that there is no magic time
that is set for the appointment and he stated that the Board can decide when they want
10 to do it and if you want to do it. Chair Coppola commented that when the Board
changes leadership in November everybody is asked who wants to do what as to their
position and the Board will tell the new Chairman. Commissioner Seay commented
new Chair will be elected in November and it is the Chair's appointment. She stated
for the record it's worked pretty well so far and she would not want to rock that boat.

10. Attorney's Report

15 Attorney Garrard had nothing to report.

11. Executive Director's Report

20 a) **Development Update** - Mr. Parish commented that a lot is going on but you are not
seeing a lot right now. He reported that the contracts were finalized for the re-work
of the entrance roads on Viking Avenue and into the parking lot area. He commented
that the Authority was hoping to have it done before December, but with the FAA
grant funding it has pushed the project behind of where the Authority wanted to be.
He commented that the project is on hold because the Authority does not want to be
25 in the middle of construction in March during the busiest time. He commented that
the project will be started in late March and this will allow the Authority to finish the
project during the slow season. He stated that the Authority is working with Cheney
Brothers and the County on the construction of a new road in the Industrial Park
which was started earlier this month. He commented that they are moving fairly
quickly on it. He stated that he is meeting with the contractors to finish the work that
30 is required under the Authority's Master Drainage Plan for the Nordel pond. He
stated that the County had built the structures going into and leaving the pond and he
commented that slight modifications have to be made internally to the pond. He
commented that the County had brought some fill in for the Piper Road construction
for the required swales under the Master Drainage Plan and he stated that they did not
35 use all of it. He commented that some of the fill will be used on the roadway project
and to finish the Nordel Pond. He stated that the Authority has permits to close two
ponds based on the requirement of the Master Drainage Plan to move the wildlife
away from the runway. He commented that there is not enough dirt to fill both of the
ponds but he stated that the Authority has five years to finish it. He commented that
40 the process needs to be started and any extra fill from any of the projects will be used
to fill the ponds. He commented that the Authority has identified 15,000 yards of that
fill for the Speedway. Chair Coppola asked if the Authority will be delivering the dirt
to the Speedway. Mr. Parish stated that the Authority does not have the funds to
deliver, but it is there for the Speedway to get. He commented that he has been
45 meeting with the County on other issues that the Authority is trying to resolve. He
reported that the County is finishing the southern end of Piper Road. He explained

that the Wildlife Hazard Assessment will kick off in earnest in about 1 ½ months. He stated that they will come out and set up locations that they will be able to stand on to view above the foliage and position themselves to take pictures. He commented that this will be a 12 to 13 month process. Commissioner Herston commented that the structures on the Nordel pond going in and out are okay. He asked if this is creating storage on the inside. Mr. Parish stated that there is a large land mass that sticks out in the middle of the pond which is six inches above normal pool. He stated that when the water comes in it turns north and SWFWMD wants the water to rotate around the pond so it doesn't short circuit. He stated that the Authority is berming a section and opening that land mass so the water will run through it. Commissioner Herston asked how big is the area that the Speedway wants to fill with the 15,000 cubic yards. Mr. Parish commented as it was discussed in April 2011 and no one has told the Authority how big an area they want filled. He guessed it is approximately five acres. Chair Coppola commented that when you fill one spot won't there be a problem with drainage somewhere else. Mr. Parish stated that there is a drain along Piper Road that takes the water. He commented that the Airport has an eight inch of fall off from the high point to the low point and it does not drain fast. Commissioner Herston commented that will give the Authority 1.9 feet of un-compacted fill for the 5 acres.

b) Welcome Back Bar-B-Q - Mr. Quill commented that there will be a Welcome Back Bar-B-Q in November for tenants at the FBO and he hopes it will become an annual event. Mr. Parish commented that it will be held prior to the first Tenant's Association Meeting which is tentatively the second week in November.

c) Miscellaneous Items - Mr. Quill commented that Lorah Steiner who is with the County tourism helped coordinate with the Authority on the SunSeeker magazine. He opined that it came out extremely well. He commented that the Airport had a number of ads from local entities and he stated that the Airport is trying to make a presence now that Allegiant Air has a base on the Airport. He commented that the Authority wants the people who are flying in the eastern half of Allegiant's network to realize that there is somewhere else in Florida that they can fly to and are trying to attract them. He commented that the Tourist Development Council had participated by putting \$30,000 as the County's match for the Small Community Air Service Development Grant (SCASD) which requires local participation. He commented that under this grant there is \$30,000 from the Authority, \$30,000 from the County and \$140,000 from the USDOT to promote airline service here. He commented that the Authority will meet with Ms. Steiner to coordinate it with the airlines. He reported that the Authority ended the fiscal year with aviation gas sales staying level. He reported for the fiscal year jet fuel is bouncing. He reported that for the month of September the passenger count was up 15% from a year ago. He commented that the passenger count will be down the next two months compared to a year ago due to Direct Air going out of business. He commented that Allegiant Air did add some cities. He reported that the Authority currently has a total of 898,353 passengers since restoration of airline service and he stated that the Authority will hit one million passengers sometime in the spring. Chair Coppola asked if the millionth passenger have to be in a time frame. Mr. Quill stated that each year, as long as there are

10,000 passengers a year, the Authority will received a million dollar grant from FAA which is paid for by users of the aviation system either buying fuel or airline tickets. Commissioner Herston asked if there was a way to identify the millionth person that gets off the plane. He suggested that the Authority could make it an event. Mr. Quill commented that the Authority could do something but he stated that it would be arbitrary because the number would be a guess. Commissioner Seay commented that it would be worth a guess. She suggested that the Authority could have a contest locally by picking what day and time the millionth person will arrive. Commissioner Herston commented that it would be a good marketing item. Commissioner Seay commented that Allegiant Air might want to take part in that event since they are a major part of the airline service

12. Old Business

15 No old business

13. New Business

20 d) **GPU Purchase** - Mr. Quill commented that he proposing the purchase of a ground power unit to replace the one that is over 40 years. Mr. Parish explained that the old unit was purchased used from MacDill AFB which was approximately 20 years old when it was purchased. He commented that the Authority used it for 20 years and it still runs great but the electronics are failing. He explained that the ground power units provide power to the aircrafts when they are on the ground. He stated that the old unit is running 24-26 volts and it should be 28 volts. He commented that the Authority is getting the parts replaced and the new board will be retrofitted with older equipment to make it work. He commented that at any given day the Airport has two to three corporate jets requesting GPU service, which they pay for, and opined that it is something the Airport should have so there will be a spare. He reported that the Authority has gotten prices to lease but that it is not economical. He reported that purchasing a re-conditioned unit will be approximately \$30,000 and a new unit is \$38,500. He is recommending that the Authority purchases a new unit. He commented that this is not in the Authority's CIP and it will be an addition to the budget. Commissioner Lee commented that he has been a proponent of getting rid of the old things and buying new. **Commissioner Lee made the motion to purchase a new GPU unit. Commissioner Herston seconded.** Commissioner Herston asked what the payback would be. Mr. Parish commented that there never really is a true payback on that. He stated that the Authority charges a fee comparable with the other airports and that basically the payback is on the fuel that the people buy. He commented that it is something pilots expect and if the Authority does not provide it they will fly to another airport. Commissioner Herston asked what they pay to the Authority to provide it. Mrs. Schnidler commented that it is \$25 per use. Commissioner Seay asked where the cost would come from in the budget. Mr. Parish stated that it would come from reserves and adjustments will be made at the end of the year. **Motion passed unanimously.**

14. Citizen’s Input

5 **Richard Tillman** - Commented that he is a fan and is supportive of the Punta Gorda
 Speedway. He commented that he is not here to extol the virtues of this family attraction
 and the positive assets it brings to Charlotte County. He commented that he is here
 because of the severely negative changes to the track operations that appear to have been
 caused by the construction of the new County Road that runs down the east side of the
 track. He stated that he has been attending races at the Speedway for eleven years and he
 has never seen flooded parking lots that necessitated the cancellation of races. He
 10 commented that because of these repeated cancellations he went with a Civil Engineer,
 who has spent the last 42 years designing roads and bridges, to the property. He stated
 that the observation by the two of them were similar. He stated that the water runoff
 prior to the road construction went from west to east because the land on the east is lower
 and most of that water ended up in the wooded area existing east of the new road. He
 15 commented that the deep swales on the west side of road are good at running the northern
 water runoff into Speedway’s larger parking lot and the water runoff from the track
 grounds goes into the same lot and to a smaller lot east and south of the track making the
 two parking lots serve as a retention pond. He assumes that the road was built according
 to the approved plan and he questions if the plan was efficient and not provide for water
 20 runoff and ignoring the Speedway operation which abuts the road on the west side. He
 stated that according to the Civil Engineer there are a couple of costly ways to
 permanently fix this problem. He commented that the Airport Authority has offered to
 take responsibility and bring in dirt or make dirt available to raise the parking lots. He
 stated that when he mentioned this to the Engineer he said it would make the situation
 25 into a mud hole rather than two lakes. He questioned the Airport Authority if they can
 commit to act as an advocate for their tenants by working together to validate the cause of
 the situation determining if mistakes were made, who made them and work with the
 Speedway to rectify the mistakes.

30 **Linda Jericka** - Stated that she is the General Manager of Patriot Storage in North Port
 which is her full time job. She stated that she has worked at the Punta Gorda Speedway
 for a long time and she has worked under many that have owned and run the speedway
 since the first owner. She commented that she promotes the Speedway when she can and
 she handles the website which includes replying and sending emails to 3,000 people that
 35 are on the mailing list by sending weekly what’s racing, the results and what is going on.
 She commented that Mr. Williams is a family man and he was a racer for many years.
 She stated that Mr. Williams had decided to close the Speedway for two months during
 this summer, June and July, because of the heat, rain and the kids being on summer
 break. She commented that who would have known that it would be a wet summer and
 40 Mr. Williams had to close for two additional months. She commented that every time
 she sends a mass email notifying everyone that the Speedway is closed due to minimal
 dry parking, they receive many emails from Charlotte County residents, snowbirds from
 Canada and the east coast asking to keep the Speedway open and to do whatever they
 can. She stated that she had forwarded some of the emails to the Airport Authority. She
 45 commented that for all the years that she had worked at the Speedway that this is the first
 owner that runs it like a business. She commented that everyone knows what the track

5 was like before Mr. Williams brought it with the mobile homes, people living on the
property and the junk that was all over. She commented that rats had infested the place
and that they could not stay in the office long enough for fear of the rats. She commented
that Mr. Williams took everything out, pressured washed the area, painted and brought
10 new equipment for the concession. She commented that the concession is run by Mr.
Williams' mother which is cleaner than some kitchens she has been in. She stated that
she is here today to save the racetrack and that the parking is one of the main issues and
that Mr. Williams has done everything that he could to make every spot available,
including losing pit parking. She commented that the last race in June they had the super
15 late models and they had to push the fan parking out because of so many race cars. She
commented that this is the first time that the Speedway is doing well and that after three
years they are all proud to call it a speedway. She thanked the Authority for the dirt and
she hopes that the problem can be resolved. She stated that the lease is up for renewal in
March and she hopes that the Authority knows that Mr. Williams, being an ex-racer and a
20 successful business man, is the reason why the track is so successful and is called one of
the best racetracks in the state of Florida. She is asking the Board to consider this when
renewing the lease in March and to do what is fair to keep Mr. Williams as the owner of
running the Punta Gorda Speedway. She commented that with his vision and plans
everyone will all win and she fears that if Mr. Williams decides to throw in the towel it
will go back to what it was three years ago. She commented that Mr. Williams is the best
25 qualified person to keep the Speedway heading into the right direction for everybody to
benefit from and she hopes that the Authority will considered all the improvements Mr.
Williams had done when the lease comes up for renewal. She commented that the fans
bring their families because it is a safe environment and the cost is kept down because
Mr. Williams had said from day one that all he wanted to do with the Speedway is to
30 have it maintain itself. She commented that Mr. Williams runs a very successful business
and that he is not in it to make money but for it to maintain itself. She commented that
anything that the Authority can do to help would be greatly appreciated.

30 **Richard Morrell, CAP** - Commented that three members had received the President's
Award through the United Way and he is proud of them for their volunteer hours of
service. He stated that the preparation for Tropical Storm Isaac was a good drill and he
thanked the Board for their help in moving the aircraft to safe locations. He reported that
some of their cadets had attended the Color Guard Academy and the Leadership
35 Academy at Patrick Air Force Base. He commented that the amendment to lease was
approved by legal and he hopes to get it signed and copied for execution. He stated that
they have started paying their electric bill in September which was \$77.00 for the first
month and he commented that hopefully, without air conditioning in the winter, the cost
will be lower. He commended the Airport for their help in getting the aircrafts for the
40 cadet orientation rides. He stated that the control tower and the maintenance facility were
open for the cadets to visit. He stated that this is their best year ever in their 71 year
history of flying cadets. He commented that their attendance is growing. He announced
that there will be a parent's night in October where the cadets present to the parents what
they do in the Civil Air Patrol. He commented that he appreciates the support of the
45 Authority for helping. Chair Coppola commented that it is nice to know that the young
people are interested in continuing the flying experience.

5 **Richard Stone** - Stated that he is here to support the racetrack. He stated that he is a race fan and a motor sports Chaplain and he is familiar with race tracks. He stated that he was a minister at three different tracks and has attended many races. He commented that the Speedway is one to be proud of which has many creature comforts, etiquette, clean restrooms, clean seating and what used to be parking lot. He stated that since he has been here the race fan base has grown. He stated that it is a respectable track and the crowd is under control. He commented that the new management cares about the fans and he stated that the prices have been lowered and it is a family track. He stated that the children get in for free and the seniors get in at a lower price. He stated that he and his wife are volunteers and they hope to do some public relations bringing the story of Jesus Christ to the racing community. He commented that the racing at the Speedway is the safest of the racing that he has seen in long time. He stated that the Speedway has safety personnel with equipment and there have been very few accidents. He is asking the Authority for their support of the racetrack and he opined that they are not going to build more racetracks and more of them are closing due to financial problems.

20 **David Patterson** - Stated that he is here to support the racetrack not only as a resident and taxpayer of Charlotte County, but as a racer and an executive in a fortune 500 company. He stated that he had raced in a traveling circuit that did not race week in and week out. He stated that they had raced at nine different tracks throughout the state of Florida. He commented that this is the best track in the state of Florida when it comes to support, safety and fan participation. He commented that the loss of tax revenue for this County with the lack of things for young adults to do and he opined that this is the only thing left in this County. He stated that there are no roller skating rinks and there is the mall that you hear week in and week out about drugs and things being done to children.

30 **Jessica Bryant** - Stated that she is a volunteer at the Punta Gorda Speedway and she stated that she runs the fan club at the Speedway which is something for the kids to become involved in. She stated that they had done a memorial earlier this year for the young racer that had passed away, made things for Mother's day and dress up for Halloween. She commented that they love the track, the drivers and everything that happens. She commented that she gets asked all the time on their parent's Facebook as to what are they going to do next week and a week from now. She commented that this keeps the kids out of trouble and she stated that she loves seeing the kids love the track. She shared some pictures with the Board. She stated that the pictures of the balloons being released are for the young driver that passed away in northern Florida. She commented that the little boy had looked up into the sky and watched the balloons disappear and he said that he hopes that God has a special place for Tyler. She commented that the pictures of the flowers, which were made at the track, are for Mother's day. She commented that they have a Halloween costume contest and do a safe trick or treat. She had rough draft flyers for the Board to view. She commented that the kids love the track and that it is a family oriented place and she stated that there is not a lot to do in Punta Gorda. She stated that she went to Charlotte High School and she only went to football games and the racetrack. She opined that the racetrack is a great place for kids and she stated that Mr. Williams has made it is so family oriented and the kids

under 12 get in free. She commented that the prices use to be \$20 to get into the grandstand and under the new ownership it is \$10 to \$12. She thanked the Authority for letting the racetrack exist because it is a great place to have.

5 **Bill Pearson** - Commented that he works for Mr. Williams at the racetrack and has been
with him since he opened the track. He stated that the intention of the Speedway is when
they get the fill is to level it and then put some grindings on top of that which will make it
very hard and solid. He stated that he met with an Engineer from the County that
10 engineered the job and he told them that he was never told that it was going to be a
parking lot. He stated that to his knowledge it was always a parking lot and when the
road was made they cut the parking lot in half. He stated that the drain is about one and a
half foot higher than the parking lot. He stated that it would take at least 100 loads of fill
to level it out and he stated that Mr. Williams would spread the dirt if it was delivered.
He commented that Mr. Williams had done a wonderful job with the Speedway. He
15 opined that the tracks up north do not compare with this Speedway. He commented that
he has been coming to the racetrack since Mr. Diehl own it and he stated that it is 100%
turn around. He commented that Mr. Williams is very sincere and he stated that Mr.
Williams was almost in tears due to the fact that he had to cancel the races last week
because of the rain.

20 **Kay Stone** - Stated that it is a pleasure to drive to the Speedway every Saturday from
Naples to be with the race family. She commented that Mr. Williams has done wonders
and has opened the track to them and she commented that they bring very little theology
to him outside the fact that God loves him and we love him and we are all one big family.
25 She commented that they have a great time and it is a wonderful opportunity for fans,
family and race teams. She commented that Mr. Williams has done everything under the
sun to clean the race track to keep it going. She commented that she appreciates Mr.
Williams and the Authority and she has asked that the Authority open their hearts to keep
the track open and cooperate with Mr. Williams.

30 **Bill Lick** - Stated that he has been a fan of the racetrack since 1990 when it was first
opened. He stated that he was with Mr. Davison when he had a visual plan on this being
a dirt racetrack. He commented that Mr. Davison had some investors requesting to
asphalt it and that they would back him up, which he did. He stated that since 1990 he
35 has never seen a parking lot at that track flooded, and to say that the road construction
had nothing to with it and that it was just Mother Nature is a joke. He stated that
anybody can see a road which is built at a higher elevation than the parking lot and he
commented that the water has to go somewhere. He commented that he appreciates that
the Authority is furnishing the dirt and he is a little confused why the Airport cannot
40 afford to transport the fill to the parking lot. He stated that a great deal of money is being
spent for Cheney Brothers by building a new road and tax incentives for them to come to
Charlotte County. He opined that he does not agree with that. He commented that he
appreciates the support that the Authority has given to Speedway and he hopes that it will
continue.

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5 **Paul Andrews** - Stated that he is happy that the Authority is involved with the Embry-Riddle Program. He commented that one of his proudest accomplishments as President of the Tenants Association was when a young man was selected to help him get his private pilot license. He commented that he displayed a strong passion for aviation and the American spirit because he was working odd jobs to help pay for his flying lessons. He commented that this was a community effort because the Airport supported it as well as other people on the field and he stated that he is now a junior at Embry-Riddle University and is being pursued by the airlines. He commented that he was glad to see that there will be a welcome back bar-b-queue. He thanked the Authority for the success with the young man and he commented that the Airport truly does touch the future.

10 **Commissioner Deutsch** - Commented that the County Commissioners had received communication on the problem with the racetrack's parking lot and he had brought this to the attention of the County Administrator on whether the County Commissioners would agree to work cooperatively to try to alleviate the problem. Chair Coppola commented that the county had bought a housing unit for their dump trucks and maybe something could be worked out. Commissioner Deutsch commented he will see if a plan can be worked out. He commented that he is not a racetrack fan because it is too noisy for him, but he has been out there a number of times and it always has been fun. Commissioner Stasko commented that he had spoken with Mr. Gary Bayne concerning the reconfiguration of the drainage swale behind the speedway to put in a culvert to access that piece of property for additional parking. He commented that Mr. Bayne had mentioned that the County has extra culverts. He suggested that the County give the extra culverts to the Authority. Commissioner Deutsch commented that something can be set up to make the parking at the speedway better.

14. Commissioners Comments

30 **Commissioner Lee** - Thanked everyone for coming. He stated that the Authority will work on resolving the racetrack problem and he stated that the Authority's staff is always willing to help the tenants wherever they can. He stated that the Board has to address the program of marketing. He opined that they have danced around it for a long time. He commented that the Board has to spend some money, like money spent on the GPU, to get a marketing person to market this Airport and the Punta Gorda area in order to get airlines in here, and if the Authority does not do that the Airport will not survive.

35 **Commissioner Seay** - Commented that she wants to clarify some items that were brought up. She stated that several folks mentioned that the Authority has the money but there is a distinction between the County and the Airport. She explained that the Airport Authority is not part of the County and the Airport is not related to the County. She explained that the Airport Authority is an independent special district and they have their own budget and funds. She explained that the money for the Cheney Brothers is from the County. She explained that the Airport does not receive County tax money and that the Airport wants to help but the Airport has a very limited budget. She stated she is not implying that the County has an unlimited budget but they have a different kind of funding source than the Airport does. She commented that there are a lot of restrictions

5 that the Airport has to deal with. She explained that transporting the dirt requires trucks
and personnel which the Airport does not have. She explained that if the Airport would
transfer the dirt it would cost funds and that the Airport is digging into their own reserves
in order to support the Airport. She commented that the funding source is a serious
concern for the Airport. She stated that the track pays \$3800 a month for rent and that
10 money goes to help support the Airport. She commented that she heard a couple times
that they don't want the Airport to close the track. She read page two, item #3, of the
twenty year Master Plan of the Airport. She stated that the commitment has been made
for twenty years out in the Airport's Master Plan. She stated that there is no indication
15 that the Airport is intending to close the track. She commented that everyone knows that
there is a serious issue with rain and this year is a 97 year high in water levels. She
commented that this is a problem and is a concern for all of us. She presented a picture
from a 2007 Circle Track magazine showing that same area under water. She
commented that this is not something new and she stated that this picture was taken three
20 to four years before the road went in. She thanked Commissioner Deutsch for his offer of
assistance and Mr. Parish and Mr. Quill had come up with good ideas as to what the
Authority can do. She commented that several years back a Request for Proposals as
created to share with prospective buyers about what to do with that area when Glen Van
Horn was getting out of the business. She commented that the Authority never had to do
25 the Request for Proposal because Mr. Diehl brought the racetrack directly from Mr. Van
Horn. She commented that she is a fan and she goes to the track every Saturday night
with her 87 year old father and she has been very active at the track. She commented that
she has been going to that track since she moved here. She explained it was a mud
bogging pit because it was under water and she commented that there have been a lot of
30 changes over the years. She commented that operating the 21 acres for only 30 days a
year on Saturday nights is the only income opportunity for a 365 day lease is a challenge.
She commented that some of the suggestions were to operate some other kinds of
business out there like concerts. She commented that the Airport has offered many times
to work with the track to do things like this. She commented that if the Airport tried to
35 close the tracks she would be angry. She opined that the ability to be calm, cool and
collected while working together is critically important. She commented that there are
some talented individuals at the Airport and the County that want to help but we need to
be able to communicate calmly and rationally. She commented that she is glad that
everyone came out and shared their information with the Board. She thanked the
Chaplain for the great things being done at the Speedway.

Commissioner Herston - Thanked everybody for coming. He commented that it is good
to see Councilman Goldberg, Commissioner Deutsch and Director Herrington. He stated
40 that he appreciated everyone that spoke in support of the Speedway. He commented to
Mr. and Mrs. Stone that every month the Authority blesses the grounds around the
Airport, including the Speedway in the name of Christ. He commented that he is a
registered professional engineer but you could not get any better qualifications and
experience in terms of Mr. Parish and Mr. Bayne. He commented that one good thing
about engineering is the engineer designs all the projects and they are good at predicting
45 what happens after something is put in place. He is surprised that there is a water
problem. He commented that he will get with Mr. Parish and Mr. Quill to discuss the

5 problem. He stated that the last SWFWMD permit the Authority has discussed was the
ditch that needs to be dug and suggested that there might be additional fill. He
commented that you cannot just put dirt down and expect everybody to park there
because you will end up with mud. Mr. Parish stated that there is a positive drain from
10 that area but it is slightly higher than the surrounding area. Commissioner Herston
commented that he was involved with the Speedway on their control structure. He asked
if the Speedway's storm water management is staying contained within their system. Mr.
Parish stated no. Commissioner Herston stated that it will be a contributing factor and he
opined that the Authority will need a SWFWMD modification if anything is going to be
done for the additional parking or additional property.

15 **Commissioner Stasko** - Thanked everybody and the Speedway people for coming. He
commented that the Board has in the past supported the Speedway and it is a wonderful
venue for families and entertainment. He commented that with progress sometimes come
unintended consequences and there may be some issues with elevations of the new road.
He commented that the Authority's staff, the County and private firms will solve the
20 problem and there is no problem that it can't be solved. He commented that problems do
happen and he opined that how you take care of a problem that shows the character and
make up of a group. He stated that there are people that will work through this and make
sure that parking lot is useable and to expand to other areas that have not been looked that
may be useable. He commented that he wants to see the Speedway here for a long time.
He commented for everyone to vote on November 6th. He stated that he can't wait for
this election year to be over.

25 **Chair Coppola** - Thanked everyone for coming. She thanked her granddaughter, Amy,
for being the Authority's helicopter pilot. She complimented Mr. Hicks for his five years
and wished him success in school. She commented that speaking about flooded parking
lot struck a chord with her because she stated that when she goes to the sports park to see
30 the baseball games it is squishy and they have to jump the puddles. She opined that it is
not just something that is happening here but that it happens all over and we have had a
tremendous amount of rain.

35 **15. Adjournment** - Meeting adjourned at 10:26 a.m.

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Kathleen Coppola, Chair

Don Lee, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer