

CHARLOTTE COUNTY AIRPORT AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING – MARCH 17, 2011 – 10:00 A.M.

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1. Call to Order

2. Pledge of Allegiance

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3. Roll Call

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Present: Chair Stasko; Commissioners Coppola, Herston, Lee and Seay; Executive Director Quill; Attorney Garrard; Assistant Director Parish; Mrs. Cauley; Mr. Coulter and Mr. Steele. **Others present:** Jim Kaletta, Marsha and Lionel Schuman, Gary Harrell, Bob Harrington, Andy Stultz, Carl Parsons, Laura Stasko, Commissioner Deutsch, Larry McClure, Ken Chalaire, Jeannie Benjamin, Paul Andrews, Rod Girdwood, Jon Bednerik, Lorah Steiner, other people from the private sector and a member of the press.

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4. Additions and/or Deletions to the Agenda

Mr. Quill added items 12 a) Purchase of FIDS (Flight Information Display System) and 12 b) Business Access – New Piper Road.

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5. Citizen's Input

Lionel Schuman – Commented that he read three articles in three different papers and they were all very positive. He was also glad that the Governor is an advocate of our airport. He commented that the media looks at the airport as an economic engine.

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6. Consent Agenda

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There were no items on the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Lee made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Seay seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

7. Secretary/Treasurer's Report

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Mr. Quill reported that the Authority is doing well on the profit and loss statement. He commented that the accounts receivables are very high and are a concern.

8. Committee Reports

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a) **Land Use** – Commissioner Herston had nothing to report. He commented all was doing well until the earthquake, tsunami and nuclear melt down.

- 5 **b) Economic Development** – Commissioner Lee commented that he comes to the airport everyday and goes to the terminal building. He commented that there are monitors and the City of North Port has placed advertisements on them and there is nothing from Charlotte County and that Charlotte County should think about advertising here. Commissioner Seay commented that, at the joint meeting, the Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners (BCC) agreed that is something they wanted to do. She suggested putting in a flyer every month in the various chambers’ newsletters to let businesses know how much it costs to advertise at the airport. Chair Stasko commented that the county has a video that may be able to be put up in between the advertising. He commented that the advertisement would be advertising Charlotte County and not any particular restaurant, etc. He commented on keeping the travelers here and maybe showing the beaches, golf courses and fishing. Commissioner Coppola asked about the new tourist director. Mr. Quill commented that he met with her yesterday. Commissioner Lee commented that it should be aimed at business as is the advertisement from North Port. Commissioner Seay asked if they paid. Commissioner Lee replied that they are a paying customer. Chair Stasko suggested talking to Charlotte County Economic Development Office and the Tourist Development Office.
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- 20 **c) Personnel** – Commissioner Coppola reported that Bill Sutcliffe has retired and that Mr. Quill got married February 19th.
- d) Public Relations/Special Events** – Commissioner Coppola had nothing to report.
- 25 **e) Government Liaison** – Chair Stasko had nothing to report but will get with the county. Commissioner Seay reported that the Governor is coming to Charlotte County. She commented on a letter that was received from Congressman John Mica who is fighting against TSA and some of things TSA is doing without authorization. She commented on a bill that has been proposed by Representative Michelle Rehwinkel Vasilinda on the aviation fuel tax which has come up again and is designed to encourage intrastate flight and intrastate airlines that go to Tallahassee. She explained that if this passes, perhaps Vision Airlines would be interested in pursuing this. She commented that there is also a bill proposed that allows for airport facilities information to be exempt from disclosure under the Sunshine. She commented that Naples Airport is proposing to extend its runways. Mr. Quill commented that last year FAC voted to oppose the fuel bill, but is not sure of the language this year.
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- 40 **f) Metropolitan Planning Organization** – Commissioner Herston reported that a special meeting was held on March 14th to move the funding to three lane I-75 from North Jones Loop Road to Tuckers Grade up a year. Commissioner Coppola asked when they plan to start that. Commissioner Herston said it would be 2011-2012.

9. Attorney’s Report

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Attorney Garrard had nothing to report.

10. Executive Director's Report

- 5 a) **Development Update** – Mr. Parish reported that the tower is still progressing and it will look the same for the next three months as they continue to finish up the interior. He reported that staff continues to work with the County and contractor on Piper Road on access and detours that will be in place for the next six months. He reported that staff is working with one of the consultants on the preliminary design for terminal expansion. He explained that, on some days, the terminal is over capacity. Commissioner Coppola asked if boarding will still be at ground level. Mr. Parish explained that the plans are to continue with a single story building but this one may have one gate that could have a jet bridge. Mr. Quill introduced the new tourism director, Lorah Steiner. Commissioner Seay suggested a video be put in the terminal and to meet with Mr. Quill.
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- 15 b) **Airline Update** – Mr. Quill reported there were 33,892 passengers in February compared to 21,991 last year which is a 50% increase in one year. He explained that Vision Air will start intrastate service in two weeks. He commented that fuel prices are through the roof and is cautious because of what happened with Skybus.
- 20 c) **ECAP/Economic Development Office** – Mr. Quill reported that this past Monday there was a meeting regarding the Economic Development Office's recommendation to changes to the ECAP zoning. The Authority is in favor of the changes which will simplify things.
- 25 d) **Air Show** – Mr. Quill reported that the annual air show will be held next weekend.

11. Old Business

- 30 a) **Joint Meeting with Board of County Commissioners** - Mr. Quill commented that it was recommended to have semi-annual meetings set up. Chair Stasko commented that it may be less than six months because of the budget schedule. Commissioner Seay asked that staff recommend some potential dates. Commissioner Seay commented that come this fall she will be teaching every Thursday afternoon. There was the suggestion of Thursday mornings.
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12. New Business

- 40 a) **FIDS (Flight Information Display System) Purchase** – (This portion of the meeting was not recorded due to technical problems) Mr. Quill commented that there have been numerous requests for a Flight Information Display System. Mr. Parish explained that the problem with them is that they are expensive. He has found a company that has a three year contract for \$18,000 (copy of system and pricing attached). He commented that there will be room for advertisements. Commissioner Seay asked about weather. Mr. Parish said it would be capable. There was discussion on including advertising on the system. Commissioner Lee commented that the Authority is in the airline business. Mr. Parish commented that passengers want to know about their flights. **Commissioner Seay made the motion to approve the**
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purchase of the FIDS. Commissioner Coppola seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

5 **b) Business Access – New Piper Road** – Commissioner Seay commented on access
points for the businesses along Piper Road and that there have been some issues with
the Punta Gorda Speedway. She was also concerned about air show access and that it
is going to be a mad house. She also commented on signage. She asked that
10 Commissioner Deutsch take back to the County Commission that Bonness
Construction is not providing the services and requirements that they are supposed to
for the tenants on the airport. She commented that there is inadequate lighting.
Commissioner Herston explained that there is a transportation term called gridlock.
Chair Stasko also had concerns with the air show traffic. Mr. Parish commented that
15 if the need arises, he can make some signs but the materials are expensive. He
commented that he had a meeting with the County after the meeting that he and
Commissioner Seay had with the contractor. He opined that the meeting between
Commissioner Seay and the contractor was controversial. He commented that from
the beginning, access has been discussed. Commissioner Seay commented on
20 Bonness changing traffic patterns at the last minute with no notice to the business
operator. She opined that is wrong and can't allow that to continue. Mr. Parish
commented that unlike SE Freight and Peace River Distributors, who have the same
drivers, there are hundreds of cars on a Saturday night that have never been on this
traffic pattern before and if it is not well lit and marked, it can be a disaster. He
commented that Bonness knows that they are responsible for liability on that road.
25 Chair Stasko asked that the contractor do what they are supposed to do and that the
air show runs as smooth as possible. Mr. Parish explained that there is a section of the
contract that states that the contractor will do whatever the airports says to maintain
traffic to the airport.

30 **13. Citizen's Input**

30 **Larry McClure, President EAA** – Commented that a committee has been formed
between the EAA and the Tenant's Association with Paul Andrews, Dick Solar, and
Barry Mars. He explained that what they would like to happen is have this team organize
with the airport a meeting place to get the tower people in the same room as the pilots so
35 they can meet each other. If need be they could use the EAA building. He commented
this airfield was a P-40 base during WWII and Mr. Trudeau has one he is working on at
his building and has asked him to bring the P-40 to the Topping Out party today. He
commented that the EAA will be serving lunches to all of the air show participant crew
members, red caps and law enforcement people. He invited the Board to attend.

40 **Commissioner Deutsch** – Commented that a couple of weeks ago he came out to the
Speedway for the first time and it was daylight and did see the sign. He commented that
he will make every effort to get the signage done. He commented that the Burnt Store
Road and US 41 intersection and the railroad improvements will probably be passed at
45 the next BCC meeting. He suggested Thursday or Friday at 10:00 would be good for him
for the joint meetings with the BCC. He commented that there is a new level of
cooperation and understanding between the CCAA and the BCC and he feels good about

that. He commented that the joint meetings between the BCC and City Council are going very well. He congratulated the Authority on the tower. He opined that now it actually looks like an airport.

5 **Lionel Schuman** – Commented that there will be an F-22 Raptor on display at the air show and there will be a jet team whose pilots are former Thunderbirds, Blue Angels and the leader of the group is a former Top Gun.

14. Commissioner’s Comments

10 **Commissioner Lee** – Thanked everyone for coming and that, slowly, more people are attending the meetings. He agreed that there needs to be a meeting with the pilots of the airport together with the tower people. It is a great idea.

15 **Commissioner Seay** – Commented on everyone being here today to help celebrate the new air traffic control tower. She commented that she can see the tower from her house. She opined that the tower will be a benefit to Charlotte County and Punta Gorda. It will assure that EAA aircraft will not have any problems with the larger aircraft coming in and to make sure the pilots are flying their appropriate routes when flying near Punta
20 Gorda. She commented that the Authority needs to continue pursuing the concept of aviation easements for new developments as the airport continues to grow. She commented that the airport will never be and, doesn’t want to be, another Ft. Myers but the airport will have more aircraft coming in as the area grows.

25 **Commissioner Herston** – Commented that it’s good to see everyone including Commissioner Deutsch, Mr. Harrington and Mr. Harrell from the MPO and Mr. Stultz.

30 **Commissioner Coppola** – Commented on the article in the Sarasota Herald on the airport. She commented that she is looking forward to the Topping Out party today.

35 **Chair Stasko** – Thanked everyone for coming. He commented that he and Mr. Parish met with a real estate group in Englewood and it baffles him that there are people who don’t know about the airport and flights. He commented that he appreciates what the newspapers do, but doesn’t know what can be done to let the population know about the airport.

15. Adjournment

40 Meeting adjourned at 10:57 a.m.

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Gary Stasko, Chair

Don Lee, Secretary/Treasurer