

**CHARLOTTE COUNTY AIRPORT AUTHORITY**

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING – MARCH 15, 2012 – 9:00 A.M.**

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**1. Call to Order**

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

10 **3. Roll Call**

**Present:** Chair Coppola; Commissioners Herston, Lee, Seay and Stasko; Executive Director Quill, Attorney Garrard, Assistant Director Parish, Mrs. Cauley, Mr. Coulter, Mrs. Worth-Dugan, Mr. Steele and Mrs. Sutcliffe. **Others present:** Councilman Goldberg, Jim Kaletta, Paul Andrews, Andy Stultz, Steve Lampman, Lucienne Pears, Commissioner Deutsch, Carl Parsons, Kay Tracy, Jefferson Michaelis, Afra Mendes Newell, members of the visiting Brazilian delegation and a member of the press.

20 **4. Additions and/or Deletions to the Agenda**

Mr. Quill added under New Business 12 a) Prayer at Meetings and after the Consent Agenda Commissioner Seay would like to introduce the Brazilian Delegation.

25 **5. Citizen's Input**

**Councilman Goldberg** - Commented that the City of Punta Gorda is disappointed and concerned upon hearing the cancellations of all flights for Direct Air. He commented that the City will support and help the Airport Authority in their efforts to attract another airline.

30 **Lionel Schuman** - Commented that he hopes the Direct Air episode does not discourage the Airport, which is very similar to the Skybus episode a few years ago. He commented that with the economy and fuel prices changing dramatically, he hopes that this does not close the door to be more aggressive in getting in an airline that is dependable. He opined that the Authority has to be aggressive and cannot get discouraged because it is an important part of the Airport.

35 **Commissioner Deutsch** - Commented that he believes in the Airport and the County Commission will help with anything that is within their power. He commented that what is happening in Charlotte County and the City of Punta Gorda is their loss and there is someone out there who will realize that this is the place to be flying into.

40 **6. Consent Agenda**

45 **Commissioner Seay made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Stasko seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

a) **Introductions** - Commissioners Seay welcomed the people from Brazil. She explained that Kay Tracy has led a group here and asked her to make introductions. Ms. Tracy introduced the Brazilian Delegation and commented that the Airport Authority was a major sponsor of the Trade Mission to Brazil with Governor Scott. She commented that they have connected with the Brazil of Florida Chamber of Commerce, Jefferson Michaelis, and he had brought another delegation to Charlotte County. She commented that the delegation will be touring the area for the remainder of the day. She mentioned that the County Commission and the City of Punta Gorda were co-sponsors for the in-bound Brazilian delegation in November. Mr. Michaelis commented that he is pleased to be in Punta Gorda and when he first came to Charlotte County the first time he was with 27 business people and he made a promise to the Authority and to himself that he would return with more companies to create more jobs in Charlotte County. He stated that he is a Brazilian/American citizen and is doing his best to bring companies to Florida. He commented that he has been working in Brazil for the last fourteen months going back and forth investing his own money and he is pleased to say that it is working out. He commented that he has a large company that is reputable in Brazil who will choose a county in Florida to set up their operation and he has two to four companies that are interested in relocating and one is related to airports. He commented that he is active in selling Florida as the best business destination on earth and he is delivering his promise of the first of many companies that he will personally bring to Florida. He thanked all the sponsoring companies, Commissioner Seay, Ms. Tracy and all the other people for believing in him that Brazil can make a difference. He introduced Mr. Fabricio Saab Pereira, CEO of Quimatec, which is a large chemical company in Brazil who have several different companies and they make the products that make those companies better. He commented that he will leave the Business Plan (copy attached) for Quimatec to show what they want to do. He introduced Mr. Ramon Merzvinsksas, Vice-President, and Mr. Deives Antonio Furlan, Director and Project Leader who will be transferred to Florida to run the business. He stated the company has a 12 month business plan and a three year vision plan. He commented that they have changed the name of the Chamber to the Brazil Florida Chamber of Commerce. He commented that the Quimatec representatives will be here until March 25<sup>th</sup> so if there are any questions, contact him. Commissioner Herston asked the chemicals they produce. Mr. Pereira explained that some of the companies they have include chemical, sugar mill, ethanol and paper companies. He went over some of their products. Mr. Michaelis explained one of the things they do is work on making the water that leaves the sugar cane plant cleaner. Chair Coppola thanked everyone for coming this morning.

## 7. Secretary/Treasurer's Report

Mr. Quill reported that the Authority had a good February and an increase for the year. He reported that Arcadia Aerospace has been paying on their account and is headed in the right direction. He commented that there is an issue with Direct Air's account but the goal is to finish the year in the black. Attorney Garrard asked if Gulf Contours was still in business. Mr. Quill explained that they try to make a payment a month but are way behind. He commented that their lease has expired and are now month to month.

## 8. Committee Reports

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- a) **Land Use** – Commissioner Herston had nothing to report.
- b) **Economic Development** – Commissioner Lee had nothing to report.
- c) **Personnel** – Chair Coppola had nothing to report.
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- d) **Public Relations/Special Events** - Chair Coppola reported that she, Mr. Quill, representatives from the County and City of Punta Gorda met with Governor Scott. Governor Scott came to Charlotte County to find out how he can help bring in businesses and opined it was a very good and successful meeting. She reported that she attended the Mid County Republican Club meeting and Commissioner Stasko and his opponent Paul Andrews debated airport issues. She reported that she and Commissioner Lee attended a dinner during the Warbird weekend. She
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- attended a Community Leaders Meeting at Edison State College and that she was unable to attend the Junior Leadership Charlotte luncheon.
- e) **Government Liaison** – Commissioner Stasko had nothing to report. Commissioner Seay reported that there is a House Bill for an exemption on aircraft over 2,000 lbs that will help the Authority’s tenants that perform maintenance on aircraft. She complimented Senator Bennett.
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- f) **Metropolitan Planning Organization** - Commissioner Herston had nothing to report until the next MPO meeting is held.
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## 9. Attorney’s Report

Attorney Garrard had nothing to report.

## 30 10. Executive Director’s Report

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- a) **Development Update** – Mr. Quill reported that the new administration building is under construction and should be completed this summer. He explained that the current administration building will be torn down and the terminal expanded.
- b) **Statistical Update** – Mr. Quill reported that for the past twelve months there have been 300,609 passengers compared to the 8 million passengers at RSW. He commented that there has been some movement in the last eighteen hours, and believes today it will be announced that Vision Airlines will pick up routes to Rockford and Springfield, Illinois. He commented that at least there will be passenger service to those cities. He explained that this is thrown together by the two airports in Illinois to try to keep service and that he and staff will continue to attract another airline. He commented that Direct Air stated they are suspending flights from March 13<sup>th</sup> to May 15<sup>th</sup>. He opined that it is unlikely that will come back. He explained that the Air Traffic Control Tower (ATCT) reported that for
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- the last half of February there were 3,627 movements. He commented that the bulk of the airport’s traffic is single engine aircraft but the four percent that is commercial airline service pays a lot of bills and wants to get that back.

### c) Miscellaneous Items

5 Mr. Quill reported that the TSA will unveil their new AIT technology on Friday,  
March 16<sup>th</sup>. He explained that it shows stick people and if there is an object it  
shows up. Commissioner Seay reported that she just went through one and it is an  
outline of a person and, if there is something, it shows up as a little square box and  
that is where they check. Mr. Quill commented that it speeds up the process.  
10 Commissioner Seay opined that it is not any faster. Chair Coppola asked if it was  
any safer. Commissioner Seay opined that it is the same.

15 Mr. Quill explained that when the ATCT was opened he thought that would  
minimize the noise problems, and about a week and a half ago, because of the  
wind direction, aircraft had to take off toward the southwest. He explained that  
they were turning right away and climbing which put the noise over Burnt Store  
Isles and PGI and the desire is to take them out five miles and then turn. He opined  
that it is frustrating. He explained that he talked to the tower chief and Ft. Myers  
20 FAA approach was telling them to turn immediately. He has talked to the tower  
chief in Ft. Myers and what they are going to do now is try to turn them left  
towards the middle of the state. He hopes there will be an improvement. He  
commented that the traffic is right on the sector between Miami and Tampa. Mr.  
Steele explained that the airport is real close to the border of the sector and they  
were holding them at 2,000 ft. instead of the 3,000 ft. as suggested in the airport's  
25 noise mitigation program. Mr. Quill commented that noise won't be completely  
eliminated but will help the problem.

## 11. Old Business

## 12. New Business

30 a) **Prayer at Meeting** – Commissioner Herston suggested adding prayer to the  
meeting. Chair Coppola commented that Commissioner Seay wanted that when  
she was Chair. Commissioner Lee commented that the Authority did have an  
invocation and opined that it is something that should be reinstated. Commissioner  
35 Seay explained that the challenge was trying to coordinate it and having someone  
here. She commented that former Commissioner Brooks would come but it was an  
imposition to have the same person here every meeting. She suggested that the  
Commissioners take it upon themselves to find someone and take turns each  
month. Chair Coppola asked Attorney Garrard if there was a problem with it.  
40 Attorney Garrard explained, not legally. Commissioner Stasko suggested that if  
there is not a clergyman that a board member say the invocation. **Commissioner  
Seay made the motion to add to the Agenda an invocation after the Call to  
Order. Commissioner Herston seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

## 45 13. Citizen's Input

**Ernie Berrisford, Burnt Store Isles** - Commented that Mr. Quill addressed some of  
his complaints. He commented that noise is an issue but the other issue is they were

5 told to be patient and wait until the tower was put into operation. He commented that there are FAA violations regarding aircraft height. He stated that it is mostly executive jets flying down the eighth fairway at 200 feet to 300 feet and are rattling the dishes out of the china closets of the houses. He commented that when the aircraft go down the harbor to Placida and turn, no one minds that, but occasionally there are still a few strays. He commented that he has been able to read the N numbers of the aircraft without binoculars. He is asking for the Board's continued help. Chair Coppola commented that the Airport is working with a new pattern and working in cooperation with Ft. Myers. Mr. Berrisford asked if there is a pre-determined schedule. Mr. Quill commented that he would get Mr. Berrisford a copy of the schedule. Commissioner Lee suggested that if Mr. Berrisford could read the N numbers to write them down. Commissioner Herston asked about the tower height. Mr. Quill said it is 135 feet and for an aircraft to be 200 feet to 300 feet would be very unusual for a jet, maybe an ultralight. Commissioner Lee commented that at 200 feet they would not make the runway.

20 **Lionel Schuman** – Commented on the driving force of the Board and the potential of the Brazilians coming to Charlotte County. He thanked the Board for their efforts. He commented that the Brazilians have the type of businesses that would be good in Charlotte County and Punta Gorda. He opined that the Authority will obtain another airline. He commented on the expansion taking place.

25 **Jim Kaletta, Civil Air Patrol** - Reported that the CAP worked over 600 volunteer hours for the Warbird Expo providing security, parking, etc. He reported there were ELT missions and will be working the air show in March. He introduced Major Dick Morrell, the new Commander of the Squadron.

30 **Commissioner Deutsch** – Commented that it may be in the realm of possibilities that Economic Development Office may be able to help assist with some incentives if someone new wants to come in. He commented that he will get in touch with Tom Patton to give Mr. Quill a call.

#### 14. Commissioner's Comments

35 **Commissioner Lee** – Commented that he is frustrated with the Direct Air situation and thinks the Authority should push to find another airline. He opined that the area has the numbers and the airport has the things that are important airlines. He commented on the fuel prices and there has to be an airline here that will service our area.

40 **Commissioner Seay** - Agreed with Commissioner Lee and the Authority should aggressively pursue another airline. She commented that the Authority has already proved their viability. She thanked Commissioner Herston for his suggestion on adding an invocation and she welcomed Major Morrell. She commented that the Brazilian business visitors are an exciting opportunity for the Authority. She commented that without the full support of the Authority Board none of this would have been possible. She commented that when the Brazilian Delegation came in

November, the Authority Board proved that the airport is viable and has a potential for business and that that Charlotte County is the best place for them.

5 **Commissioner Herston** – Commented on the order in which the invocation would be placed was a good choice. He commented that it was nice seeing everyone. He congratulated Major Morrell and hated to see Mr. Kaletta go. He told staff to keep up the good work. He stated that, regarding Direct Air, for every closed door is an open door. He opined that the Airport, the community and county is poised for greatness. He stated that every day he gets more excited about this airport and this area. He commented that he is honored and happy to be working with his fellow commissioners and Mr. Quill.

10 **Commissioner Stasko** – Thanked everyone for coming. He commented that Direct Air leaving is an inconvenience to those who have family coming and vacations planned and that they have to reconstruct their plans to make things happen. He commented that the Authority wished this had not happened but in the long run, he opined, it will end up being a positive for the area and the airport. He stated it will give the Authority an opportunity to find additional carriers now, rather than wait. He opined that if there is someone out there that Mr. Quill and staff will find them and the Board is willing to assist. He commented that he was sure that Commissioner Deustch will make sure the County is “Open for Business” and will make it as seamless and smooth as possible for those people who want to relocate here.

15 **Chair Coppola** – Commented on the invocation. She thanked Major Morrell for being here and the CAP is a great group and they do a service to our country and our community. She thanked the Brazilian delegation and liked the idea that the group not only wants to bring their company here but are willing to help other companies be successful here in America. She thanked Commissioner Deutsch and Councilman Goldberg for their offers of help. She commented that the measure of a man or woman is how they handle adversity and she opined that the Authority will handle this well and will get bigger, stronger and smarter. She thanked Greg Martin, from the Charlotte Sun, for his nice article on Arcadia Aerospace and asked him to thank Chris Porter. She thanked everyone for being here.

20 **15. Adjournment**

25 Meeting adjourned at 9:55 a.m.

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Kathleen Coppola, Chair

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Gary Stasko, Secretary/Treasurer