

SALES TAX FOCUS GROUP MEETING MINUTES  
March 6, 2014 – 3:00 pm  
18500 Murdock Circle, Room B106, Port Charlotte, FL 33948

**In Attendance:**

Bill Abbatematteo, Donna Barrett, Ruth Bromberg, Rick Brunette, Tom Cavanaugh, Marcia Cullinan, John Dollinger, Judy Malbuisson, Julie Mathis, Gary Quill, Jim Quinn, Tom Rice, Kevin Russell, Dr. Doug Whittaker, John Wright, Brian Gleason, – Moderator

Charlotte County Government Staff: Kelly Shoemaker, Hector Flores, Jason Stoltzfus, Tommy Scott, Director of Community Services.

Kelly opened the meeting at 3:00 p.m., distributed minutes from last week and asked for approval of minutes from the February 20 meeting. Jim Quinn moved to approve, Judy Mathis seconded and motion passed unanimously. She also distributed scoring sheets for the day's presentations and a revised agenda which included six (6) Quality of Life presentations and one new one on an expansion to the Airport Terminal.

**Schools Presentations:**

Dr. Whittaker introduced Jerry Olivo, Assistant Superintendent of Facilities & Support Services and Chris Bress, Director of Technology for Learning who will make the presentations and gave a brief historical background on capital funding for the Charlotte County Public Schools.

Murdock Middle School Lightning and Surge Protection (Jerry Olivo)

- Need to supplement funding sources with the one-cent tax initiative
- Federal Hazardous Mitigation funds after Hurricane Charley (about \$7 million) were used to secure all schools with surrounding fencing, new windows and lightning detection systems.
- Today's proposals will be used to add to the ongoing security initiatives
- Murdock Middle was the only school that did not qualify for the Federal Mitigation funds.
- This proposal would install a lightning and surge protection for the building, its systems, students and employees.
- Protection would eliminate repair and replacement expenses by a lightning strike

Port Charlotte Middle School Replacement (Jerry Olivo)

- Replace a 50-year old building with outdated structure and design
- Bring it up to 21<sup>st</sup> century standards with smart technology and updated building codes
- Chris Bress added information on the technology that would be included

Classroom Security Function Lock Sets (Jerry Olivo)

- Need to replace all existing classroom door locks with ones that can be locked from the inside
- Currently, many classroom doors can only be locked from the outside -- makes all occupants vulnerable to a classroom intrusion.

Front Entry Access Controls (Jerry Olivo)

- Photos showed front entry points at various schools with limited access controls
- All new schools have a single point of entry with controls
- Project would increase security at older schools with no single entry and accompanying controls
- Schools built in the past were built to be open to their communities and little thought was required for security while today's security needs require tighter controls of access

Wireless Access Points (Chris Bress)

- Additional wireless access points are required for the many electronic devices in use today.

- Working to meet an AC certified standard
- Adds wireless density as well as access points and will meet increased instructional
- Would also enhance security and emergency measures

The Group asked questions on planning, design, community involvement, specific technology, remodeling/reconstruction versus new building, funding issues and sources, establishing phases to some projects, life expectancy of facilities, priority of outside perimeter or inside enhancements

Dr. Whittaker offered his top two priorities -- #1 Wireless Access Points and #2 Front Entry Security. Classroom lock sets are his third priority

### **Airport Terminal Presentation:**

- Gary Quill introduced James Parrish, Assistant Airport Director, who presented the Airport Terminal project.
- Brief history of the development and usage the airport
- Last year's increase in number of passengers last year made it the 4<sup>th</sup> fastest growing airport in the nation.
- Additional funding could come from an FAA grant, DOT funds and airport reserves.
- Proposal would almost triple the size of the terminal with a total cost of \$11 million

Questions were asked on the timeline of planning and funding approval.

### **Quality of Life Presentations:**

Tommy Scott, Director of Community Services, presented six (6) Quality of Life Proposals.

#### Renovation of Existing Recreation Centers

- Three Centers: Harold Avenue, South County Regional Park, Tringali Center in West County
- Add capacity for sports activities currently popular with park users, i.e. pickle ball and basketball
- Extra common space and amenities for park programs and other recreational-based users
- Provide facilities for instructional programs on exercise and recreational classes
- Fitness equipment, exercise rooms and storage space
- Major participation of youth activities and camps during school breaks
- Provide multi-purpose rooms and kitchen renovations

#### South County Regional Park – Splash Pad

- Original design for existing pool facility included splash pond, eliminated at construction
- Showed photos of various designs of existing splash pads
- Water treatment equipment already in place

#### Oyster Creek Pool – Splash Pad

- Ann Dever Regional Park in west county
- Original design for existing pool facility included splash pond, eliminated at construction
- Water treatment equipment already in place
- Usage is a little lower than in South County
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Julie confirmed with Tommy that the splash pads were eliminated from construction at both sites because of money.

#### South County Library and Archive Center

- Current facility in use since 1973 – 4 major additions, is landlocked
- Second busiest library with limited space (10,000 square feet) & parking
- Proposal will replace current facility with a 24,000 square feet library

- Multiple rooms and an enlarged computer lab
- Provide archive storage space (1,000 square feet) with climate controls
- Includes \$600,000 for land acquisition – possible donation from City of Punta Gorda

Questions were asked about costs, location, alternatives for archive storage space, combining Punta Gorda Historical Center with County Historical Center, increase in personnel for all projects, other funding sources, entrance fees, flooding issues, and coordination with City of Punta Gorda's plans.

#### Historical Center Location

- On Bayshore Drive in Charlotte Harbor, built with a Florida Community Trust Grant
- Annual attendance – 14,000 people
- Two phases: renovations and deferred maintenance issues
- Concern over location and best use of dollars – looking for alternative location but can renovate current building
- Need 14,000 square feet for static and interactive displays, storage, class and meeting rooms, and staff offices

Questions were asked on combining both historical centers in one location, current versus alternative locations, building/development phases, location of Vernon Peoples' collection, cost of renovation, and partnership efforts with City of Punta Gorda.

#### Sailing Center at Port Charlotte Beach

- Proposed two-story, 3,000 square feet building and floating docks
- Annual Sailing Regatta hub
- Community sailing hub on Charlotte Harbor
- Possible Olympic trials site
- Coordinate with community organizations

Questions were asked about other locations, annual operating costs, partnership with the Charlotte Harbor Sailing Regatta, and priorities.

Brian commented on the ongoing efforts of the Sailing Regatta Endowment program to raise private capital funds for a similar project.

#### Public Input

Art Bruning, Friends of Punta Gorda Library, gave his strong support to the Punta Gorda library project and to all the school proposals.

Adam Cummings expressed his support of the South County Library expansion project and stated that economic development should be included with the other benefits.

Kimmie Correll voiced her opinion that Punta Gorda is the best location for a massive library and historical facility and that it would be enhanced by all of the other cultural and historical markers- in the City.

#### **Closing Remarks:**

Brian informed the Group that he would not be at the next meeting and asked for direction on how to facilitate the meeting in his place. The Group and Kelly agreed that she would act as moderator.

Tom Rice asked for a map showing the locations of all projects; Kelly will make that available.

The Group discussed increasing the time required on the last day to rank all projects and agreed to begin the last meeting on March 21 at 1:00 p.m. instead of at 3:00 p.m.

Bill Abbatematteo asked Kelly to provide at the next meeting the numbers that were referenced in the Justice Center Expansion project.

Kelly gave the Group a list of the survey results from the web site and reported that there were over 400 received. The web site is now closed.

**Adjournment:**

John Dollinger moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:58; Julie seconded and motion passed unanimously.

Minutes prepared by Bonnie Leroy.