



Charlotte County Tourist Development Council Meeting Minutes Friday, October 17, 2025

A meeting of the Charlotte County Tourist Development Council was held Friday, October 17, 2025, at the Murdock Administration Building, Conference Room B-106, 18500 Murdock Circle, Port Charlotte, FL.

Members Present

Commissioner Christopher Constance
Kathy Burnam
Robin Madden
David Haynes
Gary Butler
Keith Farlow
Councilmember Janis Denton

Members Absent

Mayor Councilmember Deborah Lux

Staff Present

Claire Jubb, Assistant County Administrator
David Moscoso, Assistant County Attorney
Sean Doherty, Tourism Development Director
Lois Croft, Public Relations Manager
Maureen Morgenthien, Marketing Manager
Robyn Price, Meetings Market Sales Manager
Jerry Jones, Film Commissioner
Brynja Phipps, Project Coordinator
Dan Roe, Tax Collector's Office
Scott Ericson, Fiscal Services
Kimberly Powell, Admin. Services Coordinator
Michelle Oquendo, IT Business Analyst
Nicolo Cosentino, Tax Collector's Office
Alexa Bombenger, Tourism Intern

Guests

Jim Finch, Charlotte Harbor Events & Conference Center
Kaley Miller, Punta Gorda Airport – Director of Marketing & Communication
Suzie Smith, Punta Gorda Airport – Sales & Marketing Manager
Jay Henderson, Waterfest
Nakia Garcia, Waterfest
Sean McLaughlin, Executive Director – Punta Gorda Chamber of Commerce

I. Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner Christopher Constance called the Charlotte County Tourist Development Council (TDC) meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

- II. **Roll Call**
A quorum was established.
- III. **Approval of the Agenda**
A motion was made by Kathy Burnam and seconded by David Haynes to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.
- IV. **Citizens' Input**
There was no citizens' input on any agenda items.
- V. **Approval of TDC Meeting Minutes**
A motion was made by Kathy Burnam and seconded by Janis Denton to approve the minutes of August 15, 2025. Motion carried unanimously.
- VI. **Budget Report – Scott Ericson**
The fiscal report was presented by Scott Ericson. Ericson advised that we are at the end of fiscal year 2025 with the first three cent budget of 6.1 million. Ericson advised that operating expenditures are \$4,666,065.00, transfers \$754.819 with \$567,217 encumbered. Total budget expended is 88.95%. The largest portion was for promo activities advertising with \$1.3M, and promo activities general at \$698,000. Ericson reported the tourist development trust fund, fourth and fifth cent, total of \$600,000 with \$7808 remaining for advertising promotional activities.
- VII. **Tourist Tax Report – Nicolo Cosentino**
The tax collector report was presented by Nicolo Cosentino. Cosentino reported that 4th Quarter 2025 July through September collections were at \$1,491,902.75. Cosentino continued to report that, year to date, there were 599 suspect accounts on file. Cosentino reported inactive suspect accounts found in the 4th quarter are 0. Cosentino reported that October 2024 through September 2025 collections are \$8,492,877.16. Cosentino reported 3040 active accounts with 83 new accounts added.
- VIII. **Budget Review**
Gary Butler confirmed that the budget is in order.
- IX. **Presentations**
Suzie Smith and Kaley Miller, Punta Gorda Airport, delivered a presentation on Airport Advertising Opportunities.

Maureen Morgenthien, Marketing Manager, provided a presentation on VRBO and a Chatbot demonstration.
- X. **TDC Bylaw review**
David Moscoso discussed the TDC bylaws and the proposed changes. He will be emailing a document highlighting the changes. The document will be on the agenda at the next TDC meeting in December for discussion and potential approval.
- XI. **Director/Staff Report – Sean Doherty**
Sean Doherty, Tourism Director, provided a recap of the Tourism Department Board Report. Doherty provided a recap on the marketing, sports, leisure, meetings, and public relations departments. Doherty discussed Sunseeker, working with Grand Valley State University, and the Military Museum funding. Doherty discussed that an "Attraction Development Program" is in development which will provide guidelines and application procedures in the event that other eligible organizations similar to the Military

Museum wish to apply for funding. Doherty discussed the submission of an application to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection for Englewood to be known as a trail town. Doherty discussed the awards received by the PGEBCB and provided information on future opportunities staff will have to promote Charlotte County. Sean provided information on the upcoming Gulf Coast Host presentation at Centennial Park and the plan for future presentations.

XII. Citizens' Comments

Jim Finch, Charlotte Harbor Event and Conference Center, reported on the last twelve months of activity with 207 conference center bookings for October – September.

Jay Henderson and Nakia Garcia, Waterfest, provided an update on the success of Waterfest. Henderson announced that next years Waterfest will be held on October 9-11, 2026.

XIII. Council Comments

David Haynes thanked staff and the Punta Gorda Airport for the presentations. Haynes was pleased with Waterfest. Haynes reports that real estate sales are showing some activity while short-term rentals are down due to the loss of properties. Haynes notes that long-term rental rates were reduced by 10% as an incentive.

Keith Farlow thought Waterfest was incredible. Farlow complimented Maureen for her professionalism and praised everyone involved during the marketing production at Farlows on the Water.

Gary Butler thanked staff for their hard work. Butler discussed the quality of attractions in Charlotte County. Butler discussed the upcoming cruise ships coming into the Harbor. Butler provided insight into the sales tax meetings he has attended.

Kathy Burnam thanked staff for their hard work. Burnam thanked Suzie and Kaley for their presentation. Burnam provided an update on Fishermen's Village regarding the restaurants and shops. Burnam discussed the upcoming events at Fishermen's Village, including Culture Fest and Lighting of the Village.

Robin Madden noted that this has been a very bad year for vacation rentals. Madden discussed that next year's vacation rentals have picked up, with March completely booked. Madden informed that the beach is beautiful and has not had red tide.

Commissioner Christopher Constance discussed the advisory memo from the legal department.

XIV. Next Scheduled Meeting

The next scheduled TDC meeting is at 9:00 a.m. Friday, December 05, 2025. The meeting will be held in the large Conference Room at Ann & Chuck Dever Regional Park, 6791 San Casa Dr, Englewood, FL 34224.

XV. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:06 a.m.

Approved