



**MANATEE COUNTY
TOURIST DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL**

Minutes – April 16, 2018

Members who were Present: Chairman Carol Whitmore, Mayor Wayne Poston, Ed Chiles, Jack Rynerson, Vernon DeSear, and Jiten Patel

Members who were Absent: Dale Sconyers, Doug Copeland

Members of Press were also in attendance.

Meeting was called to order at 9:00AM at the Holmes Beach City Hall, 5801 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach, Florida

Moment of Silence; Pledge of Allegiance

Minutes

Jack Rynerson requested a change be made to the February 12, 2018 Meeting Minutes under the SRQ Update agenda item: Elite hasn't pulled out of SRQ completely, they didn't start service to Pittsburgh, as was originally planned, but still service Portland, ME and White Plains, NY.

A motion was made by Jiten Patel, seconded by Vernon DeSear, to approve the amended February 12, 2018 minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment

Nancy Deal, Holmes Beach Citizen, requested the island keep bikers and walkers safer with better paths.

Discussion took place re: due to "Home Rule", the island chartered governments must handle this safety issue; recently an application was submitted for a Tiger Grant, TDC had pledged \$1.5 million matching dollars if the Grant was received; however, it didn't come to fruition.

Election of TDC Vice-Chairman for 2018

Chairman Whitmore opened the floor to nominations for TDC Vice-Chairman for the remainder of 2018. Jiten Patel nominated Vernon DeSear. Hearing no further nominations, Whitmore closed nominations.

A motion was made by Jiten Patel, seconded by Ed Chiles, to appoint Vernon DeSear as the Vice-Chairman of the TDC for the remainder of 2018. Motion carried unanimously.

Anna Maria Island Chamber of Commerce Update

Beverly Lesnick, President of the Anna Maria Island Chamber Board, requested re-evaluating the marketing dollars the TDC allocates to the Anna Maria island Chamber annually, getting same amount as in 2002 (\$45,000 annually).

Chairman Whitmore requested Ed Hunzeker and Elliott Falcione meet with Ms. Lesnick to re-evaluate the marketing monies the Chamber currently gets from the TDC.

Public Relations Update

Kelly Clark and Kasara Morison, Bradenton Area CVB, gave international and Domestic Public Relations update.

Facilities Update

Sable Santana, Bradenton Area CVB, gave update on the Bradenton Area Convention Center and Powel Crosley Estate.

Discussion took place re: rainy season; Ed Chiles suggested re-evaluating fees for small wedding parties being charged same rate as large wedding parties.

State of Tourism – Update

Dr. Walter Klages, Research Data Services, gave update on the State of Tourism.

Discussion took place re: two-city partnerships (Bradenton and Tampa); keeping up with cutting trends; the significant Satisfaction rate for our area; area's increasing bedstock; and resort tax collection report

Public Comment

1. Mayor Dan Murphy, City of Anna Maria, gave update on renovations of Anna Maria City Pier and traffic congestion during season.
2. John Andruzzi, Interested Citizen, gave a suggestion about traffic congestion; thanked TDC for supporting the Arts.
3. Dick O'Dowd, Interested Citizen, spoke about traffic congestion; asked if anyone besides himself was in attendance from Longboat Key.

New/Old Business

Discussion took place re: Traffic congestion; multi-modal transportation; and maintaining the island's character.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 10:34am.

APPROVED in Open Session: June 18, 2018.