

**MANATEE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SARASOTA COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
JOINT MEETING
BRADENTON AREA CONVENTION CENTER
ONE HABEN BOULEVARD, LONGBOAT KEY ROOM
Palmetto, Florida
October 29, 2015**

Present were Manatee County Commissioners:
Betsy Benac, Chairman
Vanessa Baugh, First Vice-Chairman
John R. Chappie, Second Vice-Chairman
Charles B. Smith, Third Vice-Chairman
Lawrence E. Bustle, Jr.
Robin DiSabatino
Carol Whitmore

Present were Sarasota County Commissioners:
Carolyn J. Mason, Chair
Alan Maio, Vice-Chairman
Paul Caragiulo
Christine Robinson
Charles D. Hines

Also present were:

Ed Hunzeker, County Administrator
Mitchell O. Palmer, County Attorney
Quantana Acevedo, Deputy Clerk, Manatee County Clerk of Circuit Court

 Chairman Benac called the meeting to order at 1:39 p.m., followed by introductions.

AGENDA ANNOUNCEMENTS

BC20151029DOC004

Agenda Update Memorandum: None

 Ed Hunzeker, Manatee County Administrator, and Tom Hamer, Sarasota County Administrator, made introductory remarks.

1. **I-75/UNIVERSITY PARKWAY DIVERGING DIAMOND INTERCHANGE PROJECT – UPDATE**

 Isaac Brownman, Sarasota County Public Works Director, introduced Marlina Gore, Interstate Construction Project Manager for the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT).

 Ms. Gore utilized a slide presentation to give an update on the project.

Trudy Gerena, The Valerin Group, encouraged everyone to visit the project website, www.swflroads.com/i75/university, for weekly updates.

Discussion ensued regarding placing information on both County websites, project timeline, will this project be completed in time for the rowing championship, and will the concrete median under the bridges have landscaping.

Nikesh Patel, FDOT, reported landscaping is planned after the project is complete.

BC20151029DOC005

2. **2017 WORLD ROWING CHAMPIONSHIPS – UPDATE**

 Dan Schlandt, Manatee County Deputy County Administrator, made introductory comments. Lee Ann Lowery, Sarasota County Assistant County Administrator, introduced Meredith Scerba, Event Director for Suncoast Aquatic Nature Center Associates, Inc. (SANCA).

 Ms. Scerba briefly reviewed her background and the next steps in preparing for the championships (revamping the budget, hiring staff, and creating work groups to address various aspects of the event).

 Discussion took place on the construction being on schedule for the facility and boathouse, marketing strategy for lodging, list of lodging facilities, Tourist Development Council motel retreat, and transportation to and from the facility,

 Paul Blacketter, SANCA, confirmed being in the final stages of the agreement for finished the tower and noted everything is on schedule. BC20151029DOC006

3. **800-MHZ PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATION SYSTEM PROJECT - UPDATE**

 Richard A. Collins, Sarasota County Emergency Services Director, introduced Paul Alexander, Manatee County Information Technology Services Director, and Wilfredo Miranda, Manatee County Radio Communications Manager.

 Mr. Collins utilized a slide presentation to highlight the Sarasota-Manatee partnership, Airbus DS Contract, radio coverage objectives/maps, current status of project, and next steps timeline. BC20151029DOC007

4. **2016 STATE LEGISLATIVE - UPDATE**

 Nicholas Azzara, Manatee County Information Outreach Manager, and Robert R. Lewis, Sarasota County Community and Intergovernmental Relations Director, highlighted key dates of the legislative process and legislative priorities.

 Discussion proceeded about individual counties paying for water and sewer line relocations, mandatory attendance at The Gulf Coast Consortium meeting, distribution of monies from the BP Oil Spill, regional projects, and will the liaisons have the authority to vote at the consortium meeting. BC20151029DOC008

5. **TRANSIT COLLABORATION EFFORTS**

 Rocky A. Burke, Sarasota County Area Transit Director, and William Steele, Manatee County Transit Division Manager, utilized a slide presentation to highlight County collaborations, Inter-County Services, bus stop upgrades, marketing/operations and maintenance, and future opportunities.

 Discussion ensued regarding the relocation of the bus stop at Walmart on Lockwood Ridge Road, disappointing that the retailers at this shopping center are not cooperating, this bus stop is heavily utilized, ideas to bring back to the both Boards on how to alleviate traffic on the barrier islands (specifically Longboat Key), Sarasota Manatee Metropolitan Planning Organization completed a study in the past about park and ride locations, can come up with options but how do we convince residents to participate, Longboat Key has the lowest ridership, have to involve private business in assisting with traffic solutions, cost of the study, and transit has been an ongoing issue. BC20151029DOC009

6. **MEDICAL EXAMINER FACILITY**

 Steve Botelho, Sarasota County Assistant County Administrator, explained this presentation is for informational purposes only. Mr. Botelho utilized a slide presentation to

give an overview of the proposed referendum and the tentative referendum project list including the Public Safety Campus.

 Isaac R. Brownman, Sarasota County Public Works Director, continued the slide presentation to review the Public Safety Campus location and conceptual plan.

 Dr. Russell S. Vega, Medical Examiner for DeSoto, Manatee, and Sarasota Counties, continued the slide presentation to point out the current operational inefficiencies and Medical Examiner Operating Savings.

 Discussion took place on increased case load with decreased quality of productivity, location of the facility, Manatee County Board of County Commissioners were briefed this morning on this request, Manatee does not have a public safety tax, communication breakdown about the facility, the facility is a great idea, the land for the proposed location is owned by Sarasota County, need an ad hoc committee to pursue the issue, it will not be placed on the Sarasota County referendum for 2016, budgetary issues for Manatee, impact of the facility location on the community, has DeSoto County been informed of the facility request, and inclusion of law enforcement in the discussions.

 Ed Hunzeker, Manatee County Administrator, confirmed that he will work with Mr. Hamer about funding sources and bring back periodic reports. BC20151029DOC010

PUBLIC COMMENT

There being no public comments, Chairman Benac closed Public Comment.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Discussion ensued about the two boards meeting more frequently (possibly quarterly), great working relationship between the County Administrators, regionalism, and upcoming events.

ATTORNEY COMMENTS

 County Attorney Palmer announced the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) has exercised their first round of callbacks and the County Attorney's office (Manatee County) has authorized outside counsel to file both an administrative challenge and a Circuit Court lawsuit in Leon County. Staff believes what DJJ is doing is unlawful and the authority to do the callback was pursuant to an appropriations bill.

 Discussion took place setting aside reserves and the State legislature is refusing to address the issue.

ADJOURN

 There being no further business, Chairman Benac adjourned the meeting at 3:47 p.m.

Minutes Approved: December 15, 2015