

## JANUARY 4, 2011

The Board of County Commissioners, Manatee County, Florida, met with the Council of Governments in the Manatee Civic Center, One Haben Boulevard, Palmetto, Florida, at 4:03 p.m.

Present were Commissioners:

Carol Whitmore, Chairman  
John R. Chappie, First Vice-Chairman  
Lawrence E. Bustle, Jr., Second Vice-Chairman  
Michael Gallen, Third Vice-Chairman  
Robin DiSabatino  
Donna Hayes  
Joe McClash

Also present were:

Ed Hunzeker, County Administrator  
Jim Minix, Chief Deputy County Attorney  
Susan G. Romine, Board Records Senior Manager,  
representing R. B. Shore, Clerk of Circuit Court

### AGENDA

Agenda of January 4, 2011, and sign-in sheets.

[BC20110104DOC001](#)

### DERELICT VESSEL REMOVAL UPDATE

Charlie Hunsicker, Natural Resources Director, provided a report on the Abandoned Vessels Program.

Alan Lai Hipp, Natural Resources Department, used a slide presentation to review the Abandoned Vessels Program regarding abandoned and derelict vessels on waterways (Ordinance 05-16). Ninety abandoned vessels have been removed since 2005 at an average cost of \$2,500. Legislative changes to *Chapter 327, Florida Statutes* in 2009 states "Local governments are prohibited from regulating the anchoring outside of permitted mooring fields of vessels other than live-aboard vessels as defined in *Chapter 327 F.S.*". Change in definitions and criteria makes it difficult to prove that someone lives on a boat. The statute establishes the State Pilot Program to include five geographic areas with counties adjacent to Manatee for studies that will enact an ordinance to regulate all vessels in the waterways. A report of findings will be submitted by January 2014, at which time the program, and all ordinances enacted as part of the program, will expire.

Mr. Lai Hipp explained the Marine Resource Officer Program, in partnership with the Sheriff's Office, provides a fulltime officer on the water (funded by the West Coast Inland Navigation District [WCIND]). The position enables enforcement of the manatee/boating safety speed zone, as well as vessel owner contact, and the issuance of the appropriate citations. Improved database programs will be implemented. Additional waterway sweep operations are planned, and future removals and disposals will be 100 percent funded by WCIND grants.

Discussion: Acknowledge efforts of Natural Resources Department; no insurance requirement for aged, abandoned vessels; ownership awareness of vessels in local waters more than 30 days; owner's information in database; boats without navigational lights on the water at night; provide quarterly updates; appreciation to the Sheriff's Office for assistance on the water; etc.

Mr. Hunsicker stated under the emergency preparedness plan for boats, the County has a contract with four statewide firms to respond and initiate massive water cleanup following a storm or disaster. This will extend not only to vessels but to entire structures to clean debris from waterways.

[BC20110104DOC002](#)

**PUBLIC SEATING PROGRAM**

Ed Hunzeker, County Administrator, noted the County is proposing an enhanced bus shelter program to provide improved comfort as a customer service improvement for transit riders. This program is not expected to cost the system additional money as the firms providing the bus shelters will pay for construction and on-going maintenance in return for advertising on the end panel. Requests for Proposals (RFP) will be prepared for bus shelters and bus benches (for areas where shelters will not fit). Cities were invited to participate, and County staff will arrange meetings and provide details regarding the program.

Discussion: Three cities have specific designs for bus shelters; the more attractive designed trolley stops should be included for bus stops on Palma Sola Scenic Highway and other areas approaching the islands; City of Palmetto is developing a design plan and requested inclusion; appropriate signage should be provided to discourage loitering; review policies to be included in the RFP with regard to advertising, as well as crime issues; etc. [BC20110104DOC003](#)

**FILM COMMISSION UPDATE**

This item was deferred. [BC20110104DOC004](#)

**SARASOTA-MANATEE AIRPORT AUTHORITY**

**Rick Piccolo**, Executive Director of the Sarasota-Bradenton International Airport, stated the Airport Authority (a two-county regional governmental agency) requested participation in the Council of Governments. The Authority can supply interaction on regional issues, including fire district drills held at the airport for mass casualty incidents. A representative will be appointed by the Airport Authority at its next meeting. [BC20110104DOC005](#)

**BLACKSTONE PARK**

**Deborah Golden-Gestner**, Capital Philanthropy Group, consulting firm working with the City of Palmetto on the Blackstone Park project, referred to a slide presentation to provide a history of the project, which began six years ago. Phase I was the opening of the new elementary school within the City of Palmetto. Phase II (started 2007) was to assist the local Little League in replacing recreational assets and fields that were lost through the selection of the ball field site, by adding the Manatee YMCA (pending finalization), with employment conditions to secure grant funding. The State proposed a Community Development Block Economic Development Grant (CDBG-ED). YMCA involvement is crucial for the project, not only to maintain the property but to create an employment threshold for 22 jobs, which would lock in the \$750,000 CDBG-ED grant. A possible Road Trust Fund Grant would provide \$2 million for the extension of 10th Street, and the relocation of 23rd Street. The YMCA has agreed to fund its facility (\$1 million budget to include a \$600,000 payroll and a minimum of 50 employees) as long as the City of Palmetto pays for the ball fields and the pool. The CRA partnered with the YMCA to hire a national marketing firm to conduct a residential study to determine if citizens want a pool. If there is no desire for a pool, the YMCA would consider participating with construction for only the ball field. The draft marketing report on the design of the facility including the elements, will be completed in February 2011. The most integral part is the real need for a swimming pool.

Discussion: YMCA opened new facility in a County building in Parrish; proposed Palmetto pool is included in the Capital Improvements Projects but is unfunded; etc.

**Mark Barnebey**, School Board attorney, addressed three scenarios (each including the four ball fields) to be determined by the market study: (1) ball fields and YMCA at Blackstone Park with a shortfall of \$1.25 million; (2) ball fields at Blackstone without the YMCA with a shortfall of \$3.2 million; or (3) City of Palmetto finds alternate location for ball fields with a shortfall of \$2.2-\$2.7 million. Formal commitments are required from the County, School Board, and/or other entities for the funding shortfall. The City of Palmetto could borrow funds assuming there is some entity to provide funding. Construction could begin in the spring of 2011 if contracts are not rebid. Extension periods will be requested. All entities have worked hard to make this happen; however, there is not enough money to build the ball fields.

**Shirley Groover Bryant**, City of Palmetto Mayor, noted relocation of the ball fields will provide a safer environment for the children. The best scenario would be to locate the ball fields and the YMCA on the new 23rd Street. The children in Palmetto do not know how to swim, which is a safety concern, and the YMCA does not turn away children due to lack of funding. She requested the entities work with Palmetto to help resolve the problem, keep the ball fields at the current site, borrow the money, and establish an interlocal agreement for repayment.

[BC20110104DOC006](#)

**FT. HAMER ROWING FACILITY**

Ms. Whitmore invited all to the ribbon cutting ceremony on January 14, 2011, at Ft. Hamer Park in Parrish.

David Gustafson, Planning Department, provided an update on the Ft. Hamer Rowing Facility. The economic development is extensive, and includes scholarships for the youth due to the rowing program. Northeastern University is practicing at the site and Harvard is scheduled to arrive January 12, 2011. He noted blogs expressing interest in the site, and the schedule for the facility continues to increase. Regattas are planned at Nathan Benderson Park beginning next month to run through the spring.

Discussion: Economic flow to the County; a partnership with the cities, School Board, and Sarasota County; opportunities for children with exposure to athletes and colleges; Bradenton River Walk project presentation is planned; non-stop Jet Blue service to Sarasota-Bradenton Airport is used by the teams and their families, and is a great benefit to the area; etc.

[BC20110104DOC007](#)

**COMMENTS/ISSUES**

**Marine Rescue Facility**

**Bob Siekmann**, Town of Longboat Key Commissioner, requested an update regarding the new Public Safety Marine Rescue Facility on Coquina Beach, and suggested the facility be opened for a tour.

Discussion: Should open in a few weeks; staff to provide information to all cities; docks will open later; Sheriff will keep vessels at Regatta Point; Bradenton Beach also requested a slip; provide report at the next County Commission meeting; agreements will be prepared upon occupancy; contact the County Administrator regarding docking; etc.

[BC20110104DOC008](#)

**Manatee County Fair**

**Brian Williams**, City of Palmetto Commissioner, invited all to attend the Manatee County Fair, January 13-23, 2011.

[BC20110104DOC008](#)

**Kelly-Brown Career Development Center**

**Barbara Harvey**, School Board Member, extended an invitation to the February 5, 2011, ribbon cutting at the Kelly-Brown Career Development Center located across from Lincoln Middle School. The Center is designed to address the tutorial needs for middle and high school students, and also career needs for individuals who have dropped out of school or need guidance.

[BC20110104DOC008](#)

**MEETING ADJOURNED**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Adj: 5:22 p.m.  
/njh

Minutes Approved: January 25, 2011