

**MINUTES
LONGBOAT KEY TOWN COMMISSION
SPECIAL JOINT MEETING WITH
SARASOTA COUNTY AND MANATEE COUNTY COMMISSION
NOVEMBER 2, 2010 - 2:00 P.M.**

PRESENT:

LONGBOAT KEY: Mayor George Spoll, Vice Mayor Jim Brown, Commrs. David Brenner, Hal Lenobel, Robert Siekmann, Phillip Younger; Town Manager Bruce St. Denis, Town Clerk Trish Granger

Not Present: Commr. Lynn Larson

SARASOTA COUNTY: Chair Joseph Barbetta, Vice Chair Nora Patterson, Commrs. Carolyn Mason, Shannon Staub, Jon Thaxton; County Administrator James Ley, Deputy County Administrator David Bullock, Planning and Development Services Senior Transit Planner Sarah Blanchard, Deputy Clerk Paula Clintsman

MANATEE COUNTY: Chair Donna Hayes, Commrs. Gwen Brown, Larry Bustle, John Chappie, Ron Getman, Joe McClash; County Administrator Ed Hunzeker, Deputy County Administrator Dan Schlandt, Board Records Secretary Nancy Harris

Not Present: Commr. Carol Whitmore

CALL TO ORDER

Sarasota County Chair Barbetta called the Joint Meeting to order at 2:10 p.m., in the Sarasota County Administration Center, Think Tank, 3rd Floor, 1660 Ringing Boulevard, Sarasota, Florida.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Barbetta requested and Sarasota County Commr. Staub led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Planning and Development Services

Following opening comments by Sarasota County Administrator James Ley, Sarasota Deputy County Administrator Dave Bullock gave a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Longboat Key Trolley Services." Discussions were held on the following topics/issues:

- annual cost of \$1,157,655 with 50/50 funding with grant funds
- number of current average weekday trips
- seven-day route system
- estimated number of trips per year
- net cost per passenger trip for Manatee (\$7.01) versus Sarasota (\$9.00)
- proposed service options (Bayfront Park) at a cost of \$300,643 annually
- additional cost of \$300,643 to connect service to Coquina
- alternative service options
- cost for a 60-minute route service
- Sarasota staff recommendation to retain service, with one hour headway to Bayfront Park to 7 p.m.

1. Planning and Development Services - Continued

- formula for ridership cost for Manatee County portion of route
- historical data for Manatee County route
- Sarasota County's route elimination in Venice and Englewood.

Manatee Deputy County Administrator Dan Schlandt commented on Manatee County's cost analysis of \$7.01.

Sarasota Chairman Barbetta commented on e-mail correspondence from St. Armands Association Representative Diane Corrigan advising of lack of available information for Trolley service. Discussion ensued on the following topics/issues:

- lack of available service information
- benefits for providing trolley service
- funding commitment from County funds
- anticipated headway of one-hour service by Sarasota County
- lack of marketing by the business community
- MCAT Trolley system (20-minute headway) Ralph Hessler, Transit Director MCAT
- route cost (low performing) for Sarasota County
- impact of current economy on tourist base and ridership
- options for taxi service.

Sarasota Commr. Staub moved to continue the Sarasota portion of the transit service utilizing the Bayfront Park destination on hourly basis, at the approximate cost of \$300,000 for the next year, with the option to extend the service period for a longer period of time if economically feasible. The motion, seconded by Sarasota Commr. Patterson, carried by a 5-0 vote.

Mr. Schlandt commented on the costs for service and offered options for joint funding from Sarasota County and Longboat Key.

Discussion ensued on the following topics/issues:

- options to modify the Manatee County route
- impact on grant funding for the Anna Maria Island Trolley Service
- option to work together to resolve service issues for Manatee County route
- joint funding options by Longboat Key and Manatee County
- marketing options to offset costs.

Manatee Commr. Bustle moved to fund \$200,000 if Longboat Key will fund balance plus do marketing blast. The motion was seconded by Manatee Commr. Chappie.

Longboat Key Commr. Siekmann moved to fund \$100,000, seconded by Longboat Key Vice Mayor Brown. Subsequent to comments, the motion failed by 3-3 voice vote, with Siekmann, Brown, and Brenner voting aye; and Lenobel, Younger, and Spoll voting no.

Manatee Commr. McClash noted that the Manatee County motion was contingent on funding participation by Longboat Key and the motion failed based on the action of Longboat Key.

1. Planning and Development Services - Continued

Manatee Commr. McClash moved to budget \$200,000 for transit service from Coquina Beach to LBK Bayfront Park. The motion was seconded by Manatee Commr. Chappie. Subsequent to comments relating to marketing options and return of services for taxes paid, the motion carried by a 4-2, with Hayes and Getman voting no.

Longboat Key Commr. Siekmann moved to contribute \$100,000 to sustain service for one year. The motion was seconded by Longboat Key Commr. Brenner. Subsequent to comments, the motion failed by a 3-3 roll call vote, with Siekmann, Brown, and Brenner voting aye and Lenobel, Younger, and Spoll voting no.

Sarasota Commr. Staub inquired and Deputy County Administrator Bullock noted the proposed schedule for the transit route.

Discussion ensued on options to prepare an Interlocal Agreement between Manatee County and Sarasota County for Manatee to provide funding with Sarasota to operate the route.

Individual comments followed on the hours of service based on workforce needs, ridership base, utilization of Commuter Assistance Programs and/or taxi service, marketing options to assist in funding, and survey options of riders by the trolley drivers.

Note: Sarasota Commr. Mason left the meeting at 3:45 p.m.

Sarasota Commr. Staub requested consideration of a Commuter Assistance Program, as well as the exploration of alternatives, i.e., flat rate taxi service, for the workforce and subsequent to comments noted her departure from the County Commission and commended members of the Commission for the working relationships enjoyed over the years.

2. County Administration - No items were presented.

3. Open To The Public - No items were presented.

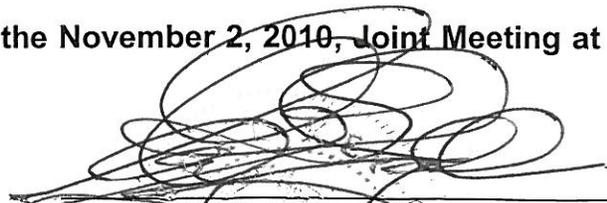
4. Other Business - No items were presented.

ADJOURNMENT

Sarasota Chairman Barbetta adjourned the November 2, 2010, Joint Meeting at 3:49 p.m.



Trish Granger, Town Clerk



George Spoll, Mayor

Minutes Approved: 12/6/10

