

## MINUTES OF MEETING

Board of Supervisors

Central Florida Tourism Oversight District

*March 8, 2023*

9:30 a.m.

Chair Garcia called the regular meeting of the Central Florida Tourism Oversight District Board of Supervisors to order on Wednesday, March 8, 2023, at the The B Resort, Majestic II Room, 1905 Hotel Plaza Boulevard, Lake Buena Vista, Florida.

Those present were Chair Martin Garcia, Vice Chair Michael A. Sasso, Bridget Ziegler, Brian Aungst, Jr. and Ron Peri, constituting a quorum of the Board of Supervisors. Others in attendance included; John Classe, District Administrator; Tina Graham, District Clerk; and Tracy Borden, Assistant Clerk.

Chair Garcia asked the attendees to please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **SAFETY MINUTE**

Mr. Fernandez presented the safety instructions for the Majestic II meeting room. Mr. Fernandez identified the locations of each exit as well as the evacuation procedures. Mr. Fernandez announced that this month's safety tip is that daylight savings time is coming up and reminded everyone to check the batteries in their smoke detectors.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Jeremy Kelly – RCFD – requested to defer time to Jon Shirey and announced that there are five total speakers including Mr. Shirey that would like to defer their time to Mr. Shirey.

Jon Shirey – RCFD Union President – spoke about Fire Department concerns and Lieutenant Jim Dorminy's benefit case.

Lesly Dorminy –Widow to Lieutenant Jim Dorminy – spoke about Lieutenant Jim Dorminy's benefit case.

Chris Eveland – RCFD - defer his time to Ms. Dorminy.

Stephen Cribb – Former Disney Cast Member – spoke about Disney's woke policies.

Aaron Colburn – RCFD – spoke about supporting the new Board and Ms. Dorminy, regarding Lieutenant Jim Dorminy’s benefit case.

Cree Haag – Ocoee, FL resident – spoke about supporting the First Responders.

Wendy Williams – Firefighter/Paramedic for Orange County Fire Rescue - spoke about supporting the First Responders.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

No agenda items

### **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

Item 6.1 - Minutes from the February 22, 2023 BOS Meeting.

The District Clerk recorded proof of publication of the meeting notice.

### **MANAGEMENT REPORT**

Mr. Classe discussed the bond debt that the District is responsible for as well and went over the various bond-rating agencies. Mr. Classe advised that the rating that the District had in 2021 went down in 2022 because of the legislation that dissolved the District. He is happy to report that our ratings have returned to pre-legislation levels. The bond market and the rating agencies have recognized the action by the Governor that reinstated the District.

Mr. Classe talked about the onboarding tour that the District is creating for the newly appointed Board Members as well as gave an overview of each department and Department Managers. Mr. Classe announced that Eryka Washington Perry; Communications Director and Mike Crikis; Environmental Sciences Director are here today to give a presentation about their departments and hopes that in the next few weeks the BOS will be able to spend time learning about each department and the many functions they provide to the District and to the Board.

Ms. Washington Perry gave a brief presentation about the Communications and Public Records Department.

Ms. Ziegler asked Mr. Classe to give an update on the rebranding of the name change. Mr. Classe responded that the District staff is working together to provide a list of District assets that need to be changed. Once completed, he will report back to the Board for direction.

Mr. Crikis gave a brief presentation about the Environmental Sciences Department.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Item 8.1 – 2023 Meeting Schedule**

Mr. Classe reported on the process for setting the BOS yearly meeting calendar. He asked the Board if they would like to make any changes to dates/times going forward and all reply no. Mr. Classe announced that future changes can be made as long as there is enough time to post the public notice. No action was required.

**Item 8.2 – Special Counsel**

Mr. Classe gave an update on the Districts current General Counsel as well and the various outside sources that help the District move forward with specialty needs. To help support the Board and Staff, Mr. Classe recommended the Board retain Kurt Ardaman from Fishback Dominick. The firm was involved in writing the new legislation with the Governor's office. Chair Garcia, asked if there was a motion to accept Mr. Classe's recommendation to hire the Fishback Dominick firm as Special Legal Counsel. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Aungst and duly seconded, the Board unanimously approved the request.

Mr. Classe requested direction from the Board on how to move forward with executing the engagement letters. The Board delegated the execution of the engagement letters to the District Administrator.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

No agenda items

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Ms. Ziegler expressed her concerns regarding COVID-19 restrictions within the District and directed management to draft an ordinance that would prohibit COVID-19 restrictions within the District, including vaccine and mask mandates as allowable under law to bring back to the BOS at the next meeting. Chair Garcia directed Ms. Ziegler to work with the District's newly Special Counsel. No action was required.

There was a brief discussion regarding working with the District Administrator and Special Counsel to create Board Policies and Procedures.

The BOS thanks Ms. Dorminy and the First Responders for coming in to speak today.

Mr. Peri thanked Mr. Classe and staff for the quality and professionalism that he has seen so far and replied that it is going to make their transition as the new Board Members easier.

Chair Garcia spoke about his experience with the District's onboarding tour and highly encouraged the other Board Members to participate.

Mr. Aungst reported that one of the important elements of the legislation is that the Board now has essentially the authority of a local government over the entire District, including the cities of Lake

Buena Vista and Bay Lake. The legislation states that the cities are prohibited from enacting anything that is not more restrictive than something that was previously enacted. Mr. Aungst stated that he would like to talk to Mr. Classe and General Counsel regarding the Advisory Boards at a later date but requested that no action would be taken regarding the Advisory Boards without Board discussion.

Mr. Aungst expressed his concerns regarding the agreement that the cities have with the Orange County Sheriff's office and would like it to be a priority of the District that the contracts are going to be assigned over to the District and has requested a presentation regarding the agreements as soon as possible.

Mr. Classe thanks the Board and stated that he is looking forward to working with the Board as well as staff. Mr. Classe requested that he would like to have two closed session meetings in April. One will be on the status of the union negotiations and the collective bargaining agreement for Unit A to give the Board an update. The other is to give an overview of any litigation matters, past or current, that we can cover in those closed sessions for the BOS.

Chair Garcia then asked if there was any further business to discuss.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:24 a.m.