

MINUTES OF THE COLLIER COUNTY  
EAST OF 951 AD HOC COMMITTEE MEETING

Naples, Florida, July 16, 2024

LET IT BE REMEMBERED, the Collier County East of 951 Ad Hoc Committee in and for the County of Collier, having conducted business herein, met on this date at 6:00 PM in REGULAR SESSION at the CareerSource Center of Southwest Florida, 750 S. 5th Street, Immokalee, Florida, with the following members present:

Mark Teaters, Sr., Chairman  
Robert Raines, Vice Chair  
Michael Ramsey  
Kimberly Donna Ellis  
Christina Aguilera (via Zoom)  
Rae Ann Burton (alternate)  
Aaron Zwiefel (alternate)

Also present:

Parker Klopf, Staff Liaison  
William L. McDaniel, Jr., Commissioner  
Mike Bosi, Planning Director

1. **Pledge of Allegiance**
2. **Roll Call**  
Quorum established.
3. **Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting**
  - Minutes were not available for approval. Postponed until later meeting date.
4. **Meeting Scheduling**
  - Our next meeting will not be at the Heritage Bay office.
  - We need to check out other places for future meetings, example was Big Corkscrew Island Regional Park.
5. **Mark Teaters**
  - Gave a background on the mission of the East of 951 Horizon Study.
  - Announced special guest District 5 Commissioner McDaniel and Mike Bosi, Planning Director.

**6. Christine Betancourt - Assistant Director, Immokalee Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA)**

- PowerPoint presentation
- Christie has worked for Collier County for 23 years. She joined the team in 2008. She is the Assistant Director for the CRA.
- Provided Immokalee CRA Annual Report.
- Further information discussed:
  - Reference Page 5 of Annual Report, CRA & MSTU boundary when she presents.
  - John Dunnock, new CRA director.
  - Completed Projects:
    - New welcome signs: Farmworkers Village, triangle area off of Westclox on SR29 in the Village, Eustis and 1<sup>st</sup> Street.
    - Zocalo Park Paver Improvements
    - Improvements to Historic Cemetery Preservation – Phase 1
    - CRA-owned Property Land Sale (S. 9<sup>th</sup> ST)
    - All projects came in during the same time this year.
  - Projects on hold and in progress:
    - LDC amendments adoption process before end of year.
    - Redevelopment Plan goals.
    - First Street Corridor: Main ST to Seminole Crossing Trail, lighting and pedestrian safety improvements.
    - South Immokalee Sidewalk Project is in Phase III.
    - Lake Trafford Road Corridor Lighting Study is on hold
    - Main Street Corridor Streetscape may become county-maintained, project is placed on hold dependent on status.
    - Private Developments: Fire Station is built. 7-Eleven is completed, RCMA is building a hub center, a daycare center, and phasing out a charter school. Future Housing Area, Main Street Hotel projects are moving forward.
  - Housing in Progress: Immokalee Fair Housing Alliance; Kaicasa; Immokalee Learning Lab teaching students the trade of building homes.
  - Future Housing & Partnerships
  - Focus on cleaning up the community and community outreach. We're over-expended sometimes, but I know how important it is to be there, be visible, and do things in the community. We have participated in the Big Bus event, Blue Zone Project ribbon cutting, community cleanup, backpack event, and tree lighting since 2015.
  - 2025 Priorities: Complete First Street and S. Immokalee Sidewalk Phase III; Revise Façade and Sweat Equity Grants.

**Mike Ramsey:**

- Who is the largest employer in Immokalee?

**Christine replied:**

- It's between Lipman [Family Farms] and Seminole Tribe. I have a listing, may include Oakes Farms, but I haven't updated it because I don't know if it's out but I can get that for you.

**Mark Teaters:** Since we've been here 10 years ago, the difference in this community is unbelievable. It would be amiss if I did not mention Fred Thomas. He was the heartbeat of the community, we called him 'the mayor'. Did Fred get a chance to see the beginning of this committee? He'd take credit for it, and he should.

## 7. **Transportation Management & FDOT Presentations**

- **Trinity Scott, Department Head, Transportation Management Services** introduced:
  - **Sean Pugh, Project Management Engineer, Florida Department of Transportation:** Project update on SR29. FDOT began Project Development and Environmental Study (PD&E) study in June of 2007 to increase capacity and improve traffic flow for approximately 17 miles of SR29 between Oil Well RD and SR82. Evaluated many alternatives to widen the existing two-lane to four-lane, as well as a new roadway that would enhance pedestrian safety and alleviate congestion in downtown Immokalee, by allowing heavy truck traffic to sidestep the current SR29. The 'no-build' alternative, which assumes no actions would take place to improve SR29, except for routine maintenance was evaluated during the PD&E.
  - All design refinements take place between CR846 and SR82. No refinements made south of CR846.
  - Many project alternatives considered were eliminated due to in-depth environmental and engineering analysis, and community input. The following public hearing was held on November 15, 2018. Central alternative #2 was selected as the preferred alternative. Based on comments received at the hearing and further coordination with Collier County, a portion of the Central alternative was shifted slightly to the east to impact Immokalee Airport. Additional coordination with government agencies took place to refine the results of this refinement. Given the importance of SR29 to the State of Florida Transportation Network as a designated strategic intermodal systems corridor, the northern portion of the project was included in the Moving Florida Infrastructure Initiative. The funding was approved for construction in January 2023.
  - In order to meet the latest FDOT Design Manual Requirements, refinements were made to a 12-foot and a 10-foot shared-use path. Refined intersection improvements to the roundabouts at CR846, Gopher Ridge RD, New Market RD. Widening of lanes by one foot resulted in an increase to design speeds between 45 and 55 miles per hour. Added 9 pond sites necessary for stormwater runoff.
  - The PD&E study was completed June 19 of 2024. The results of the study have been published in the Naples Daily News. Final documentation is available on the PD&E project website. (FDOT Office of Environmental Management)
  - [Listing of all Public Meetings taken place to-date] Community engagement is the focus of this project from its inception. Seven newsletters were sent to property owners within the project area. FDOT is required to advertise in

various ways for each meeting, for more details, see the notification guidelines page on the PD&E website. At this time, a public meeting for the design segment is being scheduled. Please check <https://www.swflroads.com/project/417540-5> and <https://www.swflroads.com/project/417540-6> for more details.

- This proposed project in Immokalee aims to enhance community wellbeing and safety. This will be achieved by improving traffic flow while accounting for the unique makeup of the multi-modal users in Immokalee. Optimizing the roadway for hurricane evacuations and supply chain needs. These improvements will directly benefit residents and businesses and economic vitality in this region of Collier County.
- [SR29 from CR846 E to North of New Market Road N] This segment will be newly constructed portion of SR29 and will have two typical sections with the speed stepdown at the southern segment beginning at the middle roundabout at Gopher Ridge.
- [Slide: Project Schedule]
- Thank you for your interest in this project update. We are looking forward to your continued involvement in this project and finally, a FDOT Safety Moment. Stay focused in work zones. See orange, slow down. Thank you for making safety a continued priority.

**Trinity Scott:** Thanks, Sean. For those of you who didn't catch it, we started the study in 2007. In 2007, the road was pipe dream for us. Hoping that someday, the funding would come available, and the governor delivered with the Moving Florida Forward Initiative which identified the funding for the project. So, 2027 set to begin. At that time, once the roadway is completed, we fully anticipate the department will work with the County to do a jurisdictional transfer with what is the existing SR29 back to the County. Through that initiative, we'll be working with the CRA to develop what the community's vision will be ultimately for that roadway segment.

I have a few other roadways that I want to talk about. Certainly, SR29 and SR82 have been our focus for the Immokalee area. The last segment of SR82 is also slated for construction in the current year. We're hoping that gets started soon.

[Slide: 2045 LRTP Cost Feasible Plan Map]

This is our Long Range Transportation Plan. For the folks that are visitors from Immokalee, I'll talk a little bit of the Long Range Transportation Plan. East of 951 folks have heard this before. The Metropolitan Planning Organization is a separate entity that is administratively housed within Collier County Transportation Services and they have their own separate board made of the five County Commissioners, two from the City of Naples, one from Marco Island, and one from Everglades City. They make up their governing board and their sole purpose is long range transportation planning. One of the biggest items they produce is the LRTP and that looks out 20 years. The current horizon year for that is 2045. Within the Immokalee area, we see Immokalee in the inset [of the map]. Our main focus for Immokalee is getting SR82 and SR29 from a safety standpoint, we were having fatalities on that roadway, so getting it safer to where we weren't having people passing on the two-lane facility. We worked really hard with the department to get those funds. The other roadway we have really focused on through the years is Little League Road Extension. So taking Little League Road from it's current terminus. It starts right

now on Lake Trafford Road and it goes up and it dead-ends. Our plan is to take that up to SR82. As the developments have come in we've had a mining operation come in. We've worked with them to set aside the right-of-way for that. We're hopeful as we move into the LRTP we will advance that project.

The Collier MPO is currently updating the LRTP and extending the horizon year to 2050. The initial revenues from the FDOT are significantly less than what the revenue projections were in the plan. We understand that it will be paramount that we are looking very hard at the projects at least that will be funded with the State transportation funds. Stay tuned with the MPO, they will be out doing public information meetings. We will want your feedback to get that ultimate vision of what is the transportation network going to look like of 2050.

*[Slide: Immokalee Area Transportation Network Study]*

The goal was to improve community mobility. Address missing gaps in sidewalks, bicycle paths, etc. and set priorities for those needed improvements and prepare for future funding opportunities. This was adopted this year.

*[Slide: Recommended Sidewalk Project Locations]*

This was the recommended sidewalk locations. We fund majority of our sidewalks with grant funds, so this gives us a great basis to secure grant funding. We don't have an issue with going for grant funding in Immokalee. We can tell a great story. You are a very walking community, and so we do go after as many grant funds as possible.

*[Slide: Recommended Roadway Project Locations]*

The study also identified roadway connections that would provide some more mobility throughout the community. We now have those, and we'll work on incorporating those through the LRTP. As it moves forward and as development moves forward, that Christie talked about. Now we can work with them to make sure we don't have buildings built where we want to put a future road.

*[Slide: Williams Property Acquisition]*

This is where my Little League Road goes a little bit further. All while we've been talking about Little League Road extension to the North. From Lake Trafford RD up to SR82, there's really only one way in, one way out, once you get out that far. That was something that's been brought up through the years. With the Williams Property Acquisition, and with the Immokalee Community Study, we considered we need another connection South. The Williams Property Acquisition is going to allow us to put together a study to look at extending Little League Road South potentially to Immokalee Road to give another connection to Immokalee Road. We're hoping to be able to incorporate into LRTP. It's; going to take some study. The county is under contract for purchase. We're in due diligence phase. The county is looking at acquisition for Conservation Collier, partnering with Parks and Recreation and a Housing component, a roadway connection, and a future Fire Station. The crosshatched area is an environmentally sensitive slough, so we really need to study that to see the best way to be able to get a roadway through the area while minimizing that impact.

*[Slide: 33563 Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Grant]*

This is our TIGER project. This is a highly competitive federal grant. When we were awarded this grant, there were 45 awarded in the entire United States. We had applied for this grant two or three times before we got it. We debriefed USDOT

several times on how we can make this project better. This is the largest Federal grant award that Collier County's ever received. We have received 13 million dollars. The total project cost for construction is about 23 million dollars. The project will construct 20 miles of sidewalk, associated drainage improvements, street lighting, a permanent cat transfer facility. I remember back in the day, we did it in tents. We've progressed with a bus stop, and now we're actually going to have a permanent facility with a canopy at the transfer station. The project is ongoing, we're anticipating it to be completed next year.

*[Slide: 60253 Immokalee RD (CR846 E) Shoulders – SCOP 1]*

The other thing we're doing is the FDOT specialized grant opportunity to add paved shoulders to those two-lane narrow roadways for specific small areas. Small County Outreach Program. While Collier County proper doesn't qualify for that grant, the area of Immokalee does. For the longest time, we didn't put in for it and were like, 'Why didn't we put in for it? Glades and Hendry county are raking in the money.' This is a great opportunity to put shoulders in the roadway. We've focused on CR846. This roadway carries a lot of Agricultural traffic, so being able to have paved shoulders and wider lanes is helpful. This project is working our way through procurement. We'll hopefully be starting it shortly.

*[Slide: 60253 Immokalee RD (CR846 E) Shoulders – SCOP 2]*

We're heading to Hendry County with our paved shoulders. We've received another grant to do Phase II of it at just under 1 million dollars.

*[Slide: 60253 Immokalee RD (CR846 E) Shoulders – SCOP 3]*

We're trying to do a mile at a time, it's about 1 million dollars. The grant program is not a lot of money. FDOT tries to spread their peanut butter as far as they can make it go and 1 million dollars is their sweet spot for the grant program.

**Trinity Scott introduced Darren Hutton, Division Director and Bryant Garrett, Manager, Operations & Performance Management, of Transportation Management Services:**

- **Darren Hutton:** Good evening, I may be a new face to many of you in this room. We do oversee all three airports within the division. Along with me tonight, Bryant Garrett; not a new face to Florida, he is most recently joining us from the city of Ogden, Utah. He's got 30 years in the airport industry. He spent 15 years with the state, working alongside FAA and FDOT. We were asked to provide an update on future plans and projects at the Immokalee Airport.

*[Slide: IMM Airport Layout Plan (2019)]*

This is a current view on screen for our Airport layout plan, that was recently completed in 2019. Ideas that we have to move this plan forward a bit, it's kind of in need of an update. We're scheduled to review our plan with the FAA, we're going up to our regional office in Orlando and collaborate with them. I'm looking forward to reviewing this with Bryant and getting our fingerprints on this plan. Without further ado, to talk about specific projects and plans and questions you have for us, I'll turn it over to Bryant.

- **Bryant Garrett:** Thanks, Darren. Just to repeat what's already been said, I've worked for the airport industry for 30 years. I've been here since April. Just looking at Immokalee in terms of land mass, this is the biggest airport in our three-airport system and has the most potential. Airports bring jobs and projects and, in some

cases, people get excited about them. There are some things that people who use the airport, people have to put up with in the midst of it.

Right now, we are just completing a complete replacement of the fuel farm at Immokalee, this is two tanks that were expanded from 10,000 to 12,000 gallons. We have one for gas, one hundred for low-lead fuel, also another with Jet A.

A walkthrough is planned for tomorrow at 9:00 in the morning, that was funded with a 80-20 grant. 80% was funded by FDOT and the 20% by Collier County. It has kind of a nebulous title it says Immokalee Airport Security Enhancements. It's taking one of our vehicle gates that's manually operated and it's going to automate it by tying it into County's Access Control System. Once the gate is installed, a 100kw emergency generator will be permanently mounted with an automatic transfer switch. We'll be able to continue to operate it in the event of a power outage.

We're also looking at some private sector money. It's always good to be able to leverage, we do give for long-term leases, one was recently granted to a private-sector company looking to develop 8 hangars. Hangars used to be a big empty box relatively inexpensive to build, now you can't build hardly anything for less than \$2 million. Hangars in permitting process now, hopefully they will be completed in 12-18 months. That was on one large parcel that we advertised. They only took a percentage of that, the other half, we're working with another developer and hopefully we'll be able to take that to the Board of County Commissioners next month.

We also have hangars are now to access them, the first group will be able to access off Airpark Boulevard. The next group will not have access without an extension of the roadway. We're working to do the environmental assessment needed to extend Airpark Boulevard out possibly a ¼ to ½ mile. That extension will come after that, but you can't get the cart before the horse. You'll need to do the environmental assessment before the construction. We're looking to do something that's going on behind the scenes, is in 2022, a \$25 million grant is given to the Florida Air National Guard. They're looking to put in an Air Readiness Center. They've been under lease for quite a while we're seeing some motion, they're working on permitting right now.

Lastly, we had an invitation to negotiate that went out roughly offering the potential of having 500 acres or more to develop that could go to a developer. That was advertised just recently, but it hasn't come to fruition yet. Should be soon and we'll find if that takes place.

*[Demonstrates runway extension on Airport Layout Plan]*

In a 15-20 year timeframe, We'll be extending [the runway] 5,000 linear feet moving to 7,500 and then hopefully 10,000 and to widen the runway from 100 feet to 150 feet. I think that's the bulk of what I have to offer. If there aren't questions, we can move on?

- **Public Comment:** What's the future of the drag strip?

**Bryant Garrett:** Unfortunately, the lease that we've just let out will probably cause it to either move or shut down for the opportunity to come up with an idea to improve the operation and offer the existing parcel that we're leasing out for development.

- **Public Comment:** Is Naples Airport trying to take over Immokalee Airport by moving here?

**Bryant Garrett:** If you allow an airport to grow organically, it grows about as fast as the community around it. There are features that right now are being filled by Page Field, by the Naples Airport, and by Marco Island, because people want to come into that particular area. It'll just be a matter of time, as you've seen, with what Naples has been, I'll just say, putting out feelers for. They are seeking a place because they can't expand. I can't even begin to think I could speak on whether or not there's any opportunities there for the county. I do know that the county is always going to be looking out for its constituents and taxpayers, and they'll make the best decision, I believe, that makes the best sense for all the parties involved. So having said that, I can tell you that moving the Naples Airport is very unlikely to happen just because of the monumental cost of a brand-new airport from scratch.

**Mark Teaters called upon the public to provide comments for discussion of the Transportation and CRA presentation.**

- **Public Comment:** What's been the progress and what's happening and what's moving forward at this point in time from the CRA with property sold on 9th St.?
- **Christie Betancourt:** The progress is available on our website. We have milestones, we have a reverter clause on that property. They submitted a rezone on that property. May 20th was the deadline date. They submitted the application. We're working with them and are still moving forward with the plan. When the new concept plan comes forward, we're going to bring that to the board. Commissioner McDaniel and Deput County Manager Dan Rodriguez are on top of it, we're on top of it. If there's no progress, I'd let you know that, but it's being reviewed by the county. They gave a real basic concept plan, they want housing. That's in one of our project pages that we provide every month with the update. It's on ImmokaleeCRA.com, we call it Catholic Charities Property 9<sup>th</sup> Street.
- **Mike Ramsey:** Do you have any housing projects that are not non-profit in the future coming forth?
- **Christie Betancourt:** Not that are ours. Is habitat considered non-profit?
- **Mike Ramsey:** Yes. I'm considering private businesses that pay taxes.
- **Christie Betancourt:** Arrowhead is the biggest one. AR Builders is doing smaller isolated homes. Aside from that, no sir.

**Mark Teaters:** Let's talk some more about the airport. This was a big topic a few years ago. First time the topic of the airport was a big deal, there was all kinds of problems out there. Mismanagement, weird things had happened. It's a tremendous opportunity for the county for economic development. We're going to talk a little bit about economic development. It's a catalyst to make this place go. Several years ago, they were going to actually put a biohazardous waste incinerator out at the airport. A bunch of us in the community got involved and of course, they were going to put railroad tracks and run the stuff over to the east coast and incinerate it in this community. There have been people looking at this place for a long time. We've got the new glass company from South America that's going to be in the industrial park. Anyone have any ideas or thoughts? This is your time.



**Mike Ramsey:** For the airport managers, I'm very fascinated. How will extending the runway improve the Immokalee airport. What will it do for it economically?

**Bryant Garrett:** An airport can have many roles as far as economic impact to a community. You can have flight schools. There's a fixed base operator. That can be a private sector company. Or in our case, that's the county that's operating and making the fuel sales. Fuel sales are the low-hanging fruit for revenue. The bigger the aircraft, the more fuel they're going to take on. There's an opportunity for the airport right now to protect the area around it. The last two airports I operated in Ogden, UT and Redding, CA; you can even look at my first airport, Salt Lake International Airport: they have been encroached by the community. It's only between good planning and zoning that you can protect it with enough space. It's the problem the Naples Airport is having right now, with noise. You give yourself that buffer. The idea is to take the ultimate buildout. The rural nature that's here and recognizing it won't be here forever, the idea is to expand the runways. I almost hate that that movie came out, "if you build it, they will come." You have to justify the growth, but you're going to have enough people, businesses that are looking for the ability to expand. They will target those that have the land available for growth. Then they're going to look next to see whether you have enough facilities there to cover the aircraft that they're involved. At Immokalee and at Naples and pretty much at Marco Island, they're all at within a 5,000-foot runway. The next step, most larger jets require 6,500 feet. We'd be looking for 7,500 feet. With the growth, you need to justify the next level. You just don't have that Immokalee has available at most airports right now. It's long since been buildout. So as the community comes to Immokalee, the airport will grow with it. I don't know if I've given the specifics you're looking for, that's the general idea of how an extended runway will help grow the airport.

**Mike Ramsey:** If I understand, longer runways, increase fuel sales, bring bigger planes or jets, increases business opportunities for Immokalee.

**Bryant Garrett:** Absolutely. You will end up finding large employers. I'll pick Amazon because everyone is familiar. There's no reason the north side of the airport couldn't be a very large fulfillment and distribution center for a freight operator facility. That will bring jobs to the community, and high paying jobs. Single economic development people tend to go looking for the white whale, the Moby Dick, the biggest and the baddest. You don't want to miss out on the smaller opportunity to give incremental growth right now. Save room for the big ones but fill in the gaps with the smaller operators. I believe I saw the economic impact for Immokalee, I believe it's the three airport-system brings roughly 260 million dollars a year. That could quadruple to go beyond that, where it's over a billion dollars. The Naples Airport alone, that small airport with two 5,000-foot runways has an Economic Impact to Collier County with 1.2 billion dollars a year. So yes, you will see that growth. Can I pinpoint who it's going to be? No. It's going to be opportunity and you're getting less and less of them when it involves airport and Immokalee airport is perfectly located and situated in the community for that growth in my humble opinion.

**Mike Ramsey:** It should be footnoted; we should prioritize expansion of the runways.

**Mark Teaters encouraged further public comment, no members of the public spoke; then introduced Thomas Cunningham, Deputy Fire Chief.**

## 8. Immokalee Fire District Presentation:

- **Thomas Cunningham, Deputy Fire Chief:** Fire District Growth Management: I know there's some metrics that are used with other departments based off population. We model our growth management and station location based off of travel time. NFPA sets guidelines for us that says we should, as recommended, have the first arriving engine on scene within four minutes and a full complement, which would be in our case, four engines and a truck on scene within eight minutes. As we're going forward we have slated for the Horse Trials community, we're going to be putting a station out there. We've been working with the developers and the County to put a station out there. The challenge we're going to face is, that as these villages pop up, they're isolated and separation from population centers. That seems to be the trend. If we look farther to the west on Oil Well, those rural villages out there, it makes it more challenging where you have to incorporate a fire station in each one. We have to figure out how to staff it appropriately based on the population and the structures that are built. Right now, the next station that we're working on is on the Williams property. We're working with the County, the County has identified five acres for us. We're going to take the station that is on Carson Road that was built before I was born and we'll move our firefighters into a new state-of-the-art station. Ms. Betancourt showed a picture of the station off of New Market Rd. We moved across the street, a CAT5 facility. Our station in Ave Maria, Headquarters is a CAT5 facility, it's where our district command center is. Ave Maria is driving our growth. I never thought in my 20 years that I would see the amount of growth that's happened. It is kind of upsetting because I'm on the tail end of my career, so I won't see this stuff come to fruition. I'll see it when I come visit from North Carolina. Ave Maria has expanded 1,000 areas but because of the population density and the drive time, the distance for us, we're going to be looking at putting a station across the street as well. It's just a challenge for us – Immokalee and Ave Maria being 15 minutes apart. That's a long time for a firetruck to be on scene by themselves. If that's what the County is doing, that's what the citizens are doing, we'll adapt and overcome. Road network, Little League Rd, the bypass, SR82 finishing that is a big priority for us. In my 22 years, I spent a lot of time on SR82, those calls in those four-lane section. Now we're dealing with Edwards Grove to Hendry County where it's still a two-lane, so we're still running a tremendous amount of calls up there for accidents. For us, to keep moving forward we have it on the books every year for the foreseeable future to continue hiring because we know growth is coming out. We're trying to stay on top of the forecasting. It's a bit of a challenge because our funding comes in arrears. We get the impact fees to build the building, buy the truck, buy the equipment; but as most people know or don't know, you can't use impact fees for people. The truck and equipment don't do a whole lot of good without people. We'll adapt and overcome. Does anyone have questions?
- **Public Comment:** Is the Town of Big Cypress considered part of Immokalee? Will that be part of Immokalee Fire District?
- **Thomas Cunningham:** That's North Collier's district. If you're on Oil Well Road, the lake to the west of Arthrex, there's a little road that goes past the lake, that's our district boundary on. Oil Well. South of Oil Well all the way out to the S-curve towards SR29 out east, that's all also North Collier as well. But again, we're watching that because my understanding, there's been talk about the fairgrounds eventually moving out there. There's a waste distribution transfer station being put out there, and I've even heard discussion about eventually affordable housing. We have a partnership with North Collier, our closest unit in this county.

**Mark Teaters:** One thing you should know is a brand-new station going up right now on the corner of DeSoto and Golden Gate Boulevard, which is all the way out there and that station from what I understood, is going to take a lot of that area in Big Cypress. There's supposed to be something temporary out there as well.

**Thomas Cunningham:** [response not clear in audio recording]

**Mark Teaters:** Are the trucks going to stay blue? Or will they go back to red?

**Thomas Cunningham:** We've switched to red; we have one left that will stay blue. Horse Trials will not start putting dirt until 2026. The build time for a truck is four years. We actually purchased that truck for that station mid-last year. We basically signed that contract and the escalation cost is unbelievable. [audio recording not clear]

**Mark Teaters introduced Lt. Paul Cabral, Collier County Sheriff's Office, District 8.**

**9. Collier County Sheriff's Office Presentation**

- **Lt. Paul Cabral:** I'm currently the District Lieutenant of the Immokalee substation. I met Mark 18 years when I got promoted to Sargeant out in the Golden Gate Estates, was shifted to Golden Gate City. 3 years ago, Commander Ellis asked me to come out here to be the Administrative Sargeant. Last year the Commander got promoted and the Sheriff asked me if I would become Lieutenant and I did. Started my career in town, I did 5 years in East Naples, did 5 years in Investigations, then came back to Patrol. As far as growth within the Sheriff's Office – I can't get into too much detail, a lot of decisions are made over my head. I can tell you the Immokalee district covers 512 square miles for patrol officers. We go west to Oil Well Grade RD. We go south down to the interstate. We cover the Interstate all the way out to the Broward County line. We go north and hit up with Hendry County and we cover West all the way up to Corkscrew Road. We have a lot of land to cover. How many deputies do we use? Right now we're allocated 44 deputies, we have 36 deputies available for duties. We have 3 civilian deputies. We have 3 detectives assigned for Immokalee. Our growth lays in the back where the Criminal Investigations department takes up the whole back end of the building – they've now cut that in half and they put in a dispatch center in there. I get a lot of questions as to how many dispatchers will be on duty. They'll be putting on 6 dispatchers each day. Right now the district commander, they are meeting and discussing rezoning the districts. That last happened eight years ago. If our district gets larger, I don't need it to get any larger with the population increase in Ave Maria. That would potentially send more deputies over here. Like the Fire Department, we base our assignments on the analytics of our call response and how quickly we can get a deputy there. How does population increase and growth affect us? IT means the deputies have to do more patrols. WE have to keep an eye on the growth. More cars and more traffic on the roads means more traffic enforcement going on.
- **Mark Teaters:** One thing everybody should know is we've been involved with the CIGM. The sheriff is using the CIGM to do what Paul was saying. They plug in all the incident reports, and they're using that to print reports to know where to put resources. That is an ongoing thing. I spent time with David Farmer recently and he told me that all

of the reporting and all the computing has all been done, they're just finalizing the reports right now. It's all been postponed because now they have the data and can tell us the real stuff. Any questions?

- **Public Comment:** [Audio recording unclear] “officers with reflectors on uniforms on their backs”, “people riding bikes”, “on their phone”, “it’s not even their fault. That is my concern on S 1<sup>st</sup> Street and Main Street”.
- **Christie Betancourt:** They’re trying to address the concerns with lighting. We understand what you are talking about. They’re not stopping, you can’t see if they’re stopping.
- **Lt. Paul Cabral:** With Florida Blue Zones project, we can give them a ton of bicycle lights. We continue to work on the bicyclists wearing lights at night.
- **Public Comment:** [Audio recording unclear] “those people that are on them I guess they’re a rental”
- **Christie Betancourt:** Is there no law to protect those people? They need helmets?
- **Lt. Paul Cabral:** They have to have a light in the front and in the back of the bicycle. Yes, they need a helmet. When we see them, we stop them.
- **Mark Teaters:** Were you having bicycle safety events in Immokalee?
- **Lt. Paul Cabral:** Yes, we meet over at S 1<sup>st</sup> Street and Main Street.

**Mark Teaters introduced James Hanrahan, Division Director of Parks & Recreation.**

**10. Parks & Recreation Presentation:**

- **James Hanrahan:** Before I get started, I would like to introduce Said Gomez, he will be Interim Regional Director starting August 5<sup>th</sup>. He will be overseeing the Immokalee region as well as Max Hasse. Very excited to have him in that role. He used to be the supervisor of Immokalee Sports Complex as well as a Lifeguard back in the day, right, Said? He lives in the community and is excited to have oversight of the region. Danny, make sure next time you go to Memphis, TN, not Gatlinburg, I’m from Memphis so that’s the best city in Tennessee. I won’t pay for you to go to Memphis. Make sure you go there. Before we get into the updates for the parks projects, I want to mention the Thomas Family - the Christmas around the World is one of the largest events we do. Whether it’s in Naples or Immokalee, and they were instrumental in that. We’re going to do our best to continue that legacy this upcoming Christmas celebration.

It has been awesome working with Christie and listen to her, she gave me a tour of Immokalee and I fell in love with Immokalee. The County Manager’s Office is currently reviewing applications for a new director and also working on a Superintendent of Maintenance. I am wearing multiple hats as we fill those vacancies.

*[Slide: Immokalee South Park]*

Starting with Immokalee South Park, we completed a new upgrade of the playground. If

you want to stop by and look at it. We had our PARAB (Parks and Recreation Advisory Board) meeting there and it is great seeing kids playing on the playground. We updated lighting and fencing there. We did receive a grant for court resurfacing for all of our parks. All of Immokalee's parks will be prioritized at top of the list, including the basketball court at South Park. We want them to have a new court. We're working with our grant team as far as being able to start that process. Our project management team will be ready once we get the green light.

*[Slide: Immokalee Sports Complex]*

The Immokalee Sports Complex, we have painted the fitness center. The field is currently closed as we have re-sodded the field. The activity pool was resurfaced around the kiddie pool. We have done exterior painting and resurfaced sidewalks. At the fitness center, we purchased over \$80,000 of new fitness equipment. We are waiting a little bit of time, we have the purchase order and requested it to be expedited. I seek updates weekly.

*[Slide: Immokalee Community Park]*

If you have been there, the community room had carpet on the walls for years. We've removed the carpet. Beautiful walls now. We updated the game room, the kitchen, and the restroom. Long overdue, a major facelift. Facilities will be working on updating the outdoor bathrooms. We resurfaced the sidewalks and new LED lighting.

*[Slide: BOCC Meeting 05/28]*

Trinity talked about it earlier, we are excited to be part of the Williams project purchase. Parks will have a part of it. We will be at the table to have discussions. I will tell you our input will be: you can never have enough fields. We want diamond and rectangular fields. We are excited to have a piece of the 2,200+ acres.

*[Slide: BOCC Meeting 06/11]*

Great news that happened on June 11. The Board, with Commissioner McDaniel's support, CRA's support, Parks' support, and Ed Finn being creative on finding funding; approved a \$4 million capital project for the Immokalee Sports Complex. Fields 2 and Fields 3 will go from natural grass to artificial turf, which will allow a tremendous amount of more play. The soccer program and the football program do a great job of serving the community. This will allow them more time on the fields. Field 1 will remain a natural grass field. We will put bathrooms between Field 1 and Field 2. We know the importance of 6, 7, 8 year olds have somewhere to go quickly.

*[Slide: Immokalee Sports Complex Aquatics]*

We will also be updating the Immokalee Sports Complex Aquatics facility. The photo on the left is the concept design. Currently, we are waiting on the proposal from Stantec. Stantec is also providing the proposal for the fields. That is a concept we are thinking we would combine. If you haven't been there, the two amenities: the main pool with the slide as well as the kiddie pool. We wanted to be able to combine them which will help as far as safety with lifeguards. I spoke to the Facilities teams, we should have the proposal within the next month. Thank you. Any questions for Parks & Rec?

**Public Comment:** [not audible, regarding Immokalee High School swim team using Aquatics facility.]

**James Hanrahan:** I met them, one day they were using the facility during a storm and were working out inside near Said's office. They're a small team, two coaches and they're really trying to build the program up.

**Public Comment:** [not audible]

**Christie Betancourt:** That's part of our Parks Initiative. We identify potential opportunities. That's still on our list. South Park is on our list to add lighting and a small practice field. This became a priority for the Sports Complex because this could be done within the year, hopefully. We have identified several users, Boys and Girls Club, Dreamland Park.

**Public Comment:** I'm a grandfather now, my grandson is playing teeball. When teeball, there's always more of a team for teeball. This year, on little league, they had like seven teeball teams. We're hoping a field is built. [remainder of comment not audible]

**James Hanrahan:** Absolutely. I appreciate that Danny, we are looking into all fields, not just rectangular fields. We're looking at baseball, softball diamonds in the future. You're exactly right. You've heard everyone mention it. This area is growing, and baseball and softball are not going anywhere. One of the things I did mention at the last meeting with this group is the concept where you have an oversized outfield where you can do soccer, but also serves as a baseball and softball field, as well. Really thinking outside the box and thinking about what our options are and not thinking about what is traditional. Where you can do 9v9 soccer and softball on the same field. Thank you.

**Mark Teaters introduced Parker Klopf, Staff Liaison, Collier County Comprehensive Planning, and opened the committee for ideas and questions.**

**Kimberly Ellis:** More baseball diamonds and more park fields should be a priority. Sidewalks.

**Robert Raines:** Let's go back to the time my wife and I came to Naples. We moved from North Carolina down to Naples. We took our first visit to Immokalee. A pastor was going to develop this church, so he told us to come out and visit. We had to stop, because chickens were crossing the road. On a good point, look what has happened to Immokalee now. Folks, you are growing. The County government has taken hold of you. Good things are coming. So hang in there.

**Mike Ramsey:** Three comments. First is for Trinity. I've noticed in my travels, there needs to be some four-laning from SR29 to SR82 and New Market RD. There's a lot of new business traffic out here. It's interesting during the week. Two: I didn't hear any talk of the future of Lake Trafford. That has to be a big issue for future tourism. Three: As Immokalee grows, you get more impervious surface and more housing, what are you going to do with the stormwater discharge issue? Lake Trafford can handle so much. SR29 is the second main canal. You'll have to have future plans for that. I think a recommendation I have is that if the drag strip leaves the airport, Immokalee and the Chamber of Commerce should find a way to keep that out here. That is a huge regional draw, but there are no plans for that. Again, they need to find a place for that. It's okay that the lease ends, but it is a very interesting business and draws a wide regional economic input.

**Mark Teaters:** When you started you had a question, about the minutes?

**Mike Ramsey:** I have concerns with the minutes, and it came out this week that we don't have any minutes. I don't want to get into it tonight. This is a good meeting, next meeting we need to figure out how they should be done, how they should be dispersed, how they should

be approved, and the detail included in them. My next point is that I am disappointed in the quality of the minutes up until this point.

**Parker Klopf:** I'll speak to the minute issue. The Clerk's Office has hired a minute-taking company to represent the County. Over the last year or so we've had the same minute taker, a lady by the name of Becky. She unfortunately left the company; we were assigned a new person. For some reason, the new person that took the minutes at the last meeting has failed to produce or respond to the minute taking company, as well as the Clerk. So, we've had some issues with that; I've notified my director as well as County staff. We will coordinate to figure out something. I agree with you, there are issues with the minutes that have been provided and done so far. The quality can improve.

**Kimberly Ellis:** How many meetings went without minutes?

**Parker Klopf:** Two, including tonight.

**Mark Teaters:** As I remember, we had a court reporter. I don't know if we had budget for that or if we should have done that. Mr. Bosi, you have any thoughts on that? I'm not trying to pigeonhole you or anything, I'm trying to figure a way. I have the same concerns that Mr. Ramsey does about the minutes as well. I think we've done as well as we can do. Most of our meetings have been small, they haven't been really big, we haven't had a tremendous amount of people there. But the minutes still have to stand.

**Mike Bosi:** Agree. The Clerk's office hired and retained a firm to provide our minutes. That firm had stopped following through. We need to work with my operations team to find an alternative to be able to provide minutes.

**Mark Teaters:** By the next meeting we'll have an update and some information.

**Parker Klopf:** Yes, sir.

**Mark Teaters:** Let's look at the option when we had a court reporter style. I'm sure that costs a bunch of money. We only have a few meetings left before we move into the master plan. I think it's important we straighten this out now before we get into the next level.

**Kimberly Ellis:** Aren't we videotaping all of these meetings?

**Parker Klopf:** We are.

**Kimberly Ellis:** Could the minutes be re-established or made from the video recording from the two meetings that we have not had minutes from the recording person?

**Parker Klopf:** We did send the audio file, they were able to make the minutes off of that. For this meeting, we're going to be able to do the same thing. We'll be good.

**Kimberly Ellis:** Perfect, sounds good to me.

**Aaron Zwiefel:** I'd like to put in a motion that we have the minutes one week forward prior

to the established meeting.

**Mark Teaters:** A week before? Actually, we had originally wanted to do it two weeks before, so that it can get out to everyone. Everybody is busy, we want to make sure they have plenty of time.

**Kimberly Ellis:** I don't think we have a quorum?

**Mike Ramsey:** I'll second.

**Kimberly Ellis:** Do we have a quorum?

**Mark Teaters:** We do. Christina is on Zoom.

**Kimberly Ellis:** Oh, good.

**Mark Teaters:** Do we have anything from her? Okay. She's just watching, maybe she's having a glass of wine.

**Kimberly Ellis:** Cheating.

**Christie Betancourt:** One of my board members says they have a question on Zoom.

**Mark Teaters:** I'm sorry, we're in a motion. Let's finish this first.

**Mike Ramsey:** In this discussion I would like to bring up issue about having the minutes made available a week prior. You can't publish or put the minutes on the website prior to approval by the group's vote. There had been discussion and prior questions that if we want to read the minutes, we can go get the minutes off the website prior to the meeting. Can't do that.

**Mark Teaters:** Is that a rule?

**Mike Ramsey:** You can't make the minutes public until approved and signed, approved by the board by vote.

**Parker Klopff:** I'll make sure of that moving forward.

**Kimberly Ellis:** Is that correct, thought?

**Mark Teaters:** We have a motion, we have a second, we have a comment from [Christie Betancourt]

**Christie Betancourt:** I just want to comment that our board –

**Mike Ramsey:** That's not allowed. This is an internal discussion.

**Mark Teaters:** Okay, so we have a motion, a second. Everybody?



**Mike Ramsey:** You asking for the vote? All those who vote in favor.

**All members voted in favor. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Kimberly Ellis:** I just wanted to carry what we have been speaking about during the motions. Mr. Ramsey says that you cannot put the meetings on your website prior to this group approving them. Where is that rule written?

**Mike Ramsey:** That's in Robert's.

**Kimberly Ellis:** That's in Robert's Rules of Order? Okay.

**Mark Teaters:** It could be a County thing too. You might want to check with the County.

**Parker Klopff:** I'll look into it and get back to you guys.

**Mike Ramsey:** Okay, terrific. Now, we're ready for you [, Christie Betancourt].

**Christie Betancourt:** So, what we do is, we post the minutes and then the minutes will tell you that you're approved for the prior month's minutes. So, we do post our minutes, then we send out our agenda packets that get approved at the same meeting. The true statement is you can't post them to the Clerk's website without being approved, but you can post them to our website before they're approved.

**Mark Teaters:** Parker's going to reach out to staff and the County and he'll give us the exact information and we'll know for sure.

**Christine Betancourt:** You did have a comment about Lake Trafford, Mr. Ramsey. We have some projects that are in the works. The whole corridor, Lake Trafford itself, the lake itself. We have a project that is currently on hold and we're hoping to have an update on that at a future meeting. We'll be discussing that at a future planning session of the CRA. Parks & Recreation is planning some improvements to Anne Olesky Park. We didn't provide those this meeting.

**Mike Ramsey:** Just to follow a question. This has been an interesting meeting, so we have been extended, East of 951? How long?

**Mark Teaters:** Until we need it. Right now, there is no deadline. We went another year, but that's basically because we have been moving into the Golden Gate Master Plan, they wanted to have a placeholder.

**Mike Ramsey:** We could be coming back to Immokalee for some follow-up.

**Mark Teaters:** If we want to do that, that's something we can do.

**Mike Ramsey:** You ask for a recommendation, I recommend that's something we can do.

**Mark Teaters:** What does everyone in the community think about it? We don't have a motion yet, so we can talk about this.

**Mike Ramsey:** Can we do the famous BCC thing? We're going to come back.

**Mark Teaters:** For some of the folks that are new here, the folks with the Airport, what do you think about small town Florida? This town is small town Florida.

**Bryant Garrett:** I kind of like it.

**Mark Teaters:** It's great. People are real here. Immokalee is a great place. I think we've all done a bunch of work out here. I've done some charity work out here and worked with the people in the community and can tell you after everything I've done out here, it's borne fruit. Quick story: came out here one time, we had a car show at the festival grounds. We were coming, it was Christmastime. There was a parade. My wife and I, we were driving, we had a Corvette. We were riding by the Casino and somebody had a bottle of Jack Daniels and they were passing it back and forth. It's real. It's a real place, they're nice people here. Where else can you go to see that? It's great. Alright. Anybody have anything else before we finish up?

**Christie Betancourt:** I just want to make sure, was there a public comment?

**Public Comment:** There's a comment on Zoom. They said, "We need more seating in the parks for elderly people, for people to read a book."

**Aaron Zwiefel:** Did they specify which property?

**Public Comment:** Just the park, I assume the Immokalee one that was right here.

**Public Comment:** There was another comment regarding the minutes, which I believe Parker already answered. The question was, "Can the minutes be made from recordings?"

**Mark Teaters:** They can, and it has been done. Haven't all these been recorded? So, we do have a methodology. Okay, very good. Anybody else have anything else? Yes, sir. Would you like to stand up?

**Public Comment:** [Portions of audio recording unclear] Again, I'm the Chairman of Commerce here in Immokalee and I like what I see here. It's part of our mission here too. I was raised here. This is my town. We've been here 29 years here in business. Another thing, housing. We need affordable housing in Collier, Lee, we need it here. I see non-profits coming in, it's not enough. Is there jobs here? Again, those are my concerns. We'll keep on waiting and see what things come up. I see [Christie's] vision and it's my vision too.

**Mark Teaters:** Anyone have anything else?

**Public Comment:** I briefly attended meetings with [the Immokalee CRA] and [the Chamber of Commerce]. Melissa had asked me as far as my opinion as far as incorporating some Golden Gate Estates stuff into the Chamber. Maybe not so much in not getting some more

[meetings] established another date to get the people of Immokalee together with the Golden Gate Estates [East of 951] group, maybe sooner than later.

**Mark Teaters:** Okay. Very good. Well taken. Anybody have anything else? I think we're going to fight the rain back into town, but we're going to make it. Do I have a motion to adjourn?

**Robert Raines:** I make a motion.

**Mark Teaters:** Do I have a second?

[Second unclear on audio recording]

**Kimberly Ellis:** There's your second.

**All members voted in favor to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 P.M.**

*Collier County East of 951 Ad Hoc Advisory Committee*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Mark Teaters, Sr., Chairman*

*These minutes were approved by the Chairman of the East of 951 Committee*

*on \_\_\_\_\_, (check one) as submitted \_\_\_\_\_ or as amended \_\_\_\_\_.*