



*Englewood Chamber Mission Statement:*

***“Dedicated to Leading Economic Growth with a Balanced Voice between Local Businesses, Residents and Tourism that Creates Opportunities for our Community.”***

Board Meeting ... Wednesday ... April 9, 2025  
**Minutes**

Attending: Jessica Souza, Erin Halstead, Kris Hartley, Peter Jennings, Joe Cataldo, Julie Beatty, Kathleen Callahan, Shane Whitmore, Janae Boyer, Francine Finucan, Chris Porter, and Lori Wellbaum & Chris Anders via ZOOM.

Staff: Doug Izzo - Executive Director

Absent: N/A 😊

1. **Call To Order:** 8:00 am
2. **Approval of the March minutes: Motion:** Halstead, 2<sup>nd</sup> Hartley
3. **President’s Report:** Souza discussed the “President’s Video” that is embedded in the Two Minute Tuesday emails prior to BOD meetings. All agreed that it’s a good way to communicate with members with regards to what the BOD is currently working on as well as upcoming events.
4. **Committee Reports:**  
**Leadership:** Jennings reported that Charlotte County Day was a success despite getting a late start due to CCSO meet up. The day was long, and due to the delay, we had to cancel the last stop at Tringali Park. All were not too pleased with the transportation. The bus was extremely warm at certain stops. The class has their fundraiser “Pouring It Forward” scheduled for May 3<sup>rd</sup> on W Dearborn St 3-6pm.

5. **Junior Leadership:** Whitmore reported that Junior LE is progressing; They are strong with Instagram recruitment videos. Doug reported we have 10 solid applicants, and 15 sponsors so far. Junior LE co-chair Morey, who is already showing prowess as a community leader, has gotten Junior & Rosie's to sponsor ALL the lunches for their outings.
6. **Ambassador Program:** First FAM DAY of the year (3/14/25) was a great success. Members really enjoy talking about their businesses, and we enjoy learning more about them as well.
7. **Government/Advocacy:** Izzo had nothing crucial to report. Cataldo brought up the N Beach Rd/Manasota Key Rd disconnect from the storms. Some said 5years to "make it right". Porter said he heard there was to be some "temporary fix", but no one has seen anything official yet.
8. **Fundraising/Events:** Our Annual Golf Par-Tee Tournament will be held at the Long Marsh Course in Rotonda West on the last Saturday in July (7/26/25). Callahan mentioned this is the same day as Hunks & Heels, and that some may have to decide which to participate in.
9. **Leads Group:** Cataldo reported the group has produced 55 One on One meetings, 28 referrals to date. Dollar results have not been updated but he will have more information at the next meeting. The group has 5 new members that also resulted in 2 new Chamber memberships. They meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month.
10. **Financial Updates.** Cataldo updated the Board that our balance sheet remains solid. Callahan requested that the preparers of the financials add a column showing the prior year's numbers on the same spreadsheet. Souza requested that the reports contain monthly, as well as year-to-date figures. Per Izzo, current Leadership funds collected to date are in the general fund and will be moved to the designated Leadership account once their May 3<sup>rd</sup> fundraiser is completed. Halstead questioned what the line item "Unappropriated Funds" was? It was determined that this is an accounting entry typically found in the equity section for non-profits. These are funds (or in this case assets) that have not been intended for any particular purpose. Basically, it balances out the Assets vs. the lack of Liabilities.
11. **Executive Director's Report, Doug Izzo:**
  - a. **Facebook Post:** Izzo reminded everyone to share Chamber posts on Facebook.
  - b. **Member Dashboard:** March saw 8 members drop off and 17 new members join; Total membership to date is 835. Great job everyone!
  - c. **New Member Cards:** Signed by BOD attendees
  - d. **Upcoming Events:** Leadership 2025 "Pouring it Forward" Fundraiser is Saturday May 3<sup>rd</sup> on W. Dearborn St. 3-6pm.

12. **Old Business:** N/A

13. **New Business:** Izzo obtained three painting quotes to repaint Kim Park's Office as well as other surfaces on the interior of the entire building. The discussion was tabled to possibly assess other areas that need attention. Will resume discussion at the May meeting.

An additional discussion was about the Sarasota Future Land Use proposal to change the zoning of certain "rural" areas that are adjacent to Winchester and River Rd. The Chamber will not take a stance on either side of the issue but will provide direction and information to those inquiring.

**MOTION:** Callahan. 2<sup>nd</sup> Halstead. To Enter into Executive Session.

**MOTION:** Hartley. 2<sup>nd</sup> Callahan. To Exit out of Executive Session.

There was an open discussion about a committee focused on creating further workplace policies and reviewing by-laws for any necessary changes. A question regarding whether changing our annual retreat date (which is in the by-laws for November each year) requires rewriting the by-laws. Wellbaum noted that only an amendment was needed.

**Meeting adjourned at 9:10 am.** Motion to Adjourn: Hartley. 2<sup>nd</sup> Whitmore