



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 ... August 13, 2025

Minutes

Attending: Jessica Souza, Kris Hartley, Peter Jennings, Julie Beatty, Shane Whitmore, Janae Boyer, Chris Porter, Chris Anders, Joe Cataldo, Lori Wellbaum, and Erin Halstead

Staff: Doug Izzo - Executive Director

Absent: Kathleen Callahan, Francine Finucan

1. **Call To Order:** 8:00 am
2. **Approval of July minutes: Motion:** Halstead? 2nd Beatty. Motion Passed
3. **President’s Report:** Souza reported that she updates the “Dashboard” in Google Docs monthly. We were asked how many of us have visited.? Many had not. It does give a nice outline as to how our finances and memberships ebb and flow throughout the fiscal year. Most recent PDF attached.

4. **Committee Reports:**

Leadership: The Leadership Class of 2026 has been chosen. Izzo stated we had 31 applications: which could be a record! The class will be introduced at the September 10th Fun After 5 held at Heritage Oaks in Grove City on San Casa.

Junior Leadership: Junior Leadership is also ready for liftoff. The class members will receive their acceptance package at LBHS the week of August 17th and have their orientation on September 10th as it is a half day for LBHS. It was discussed that the Chamber do something for Addison Morey in recognition of her efforts to bring Junior Leadership to life.

5. **Ambassador Program:** DITTO from last month... Board members, as well as Ambassadors, now receive the emails for ribbon cuttings, etc. Thanks Doug. The next FAM DAY is Friday September 12th. No scheduled Ribbon Cuttings currently. Members really enjoy talking about their businesses, and we enjoy learning more about them as well.
6. **Government/Advocacy:** Izzo stated there will again be a 9/11 Ceremony at Veteran's Park at the end of Dearborn St. Beatty brought up the young lady who passed out last year from the heat and said she, via HCA Englewood, would provide a water station at the event.
7. **Fundraising/Events:** Our Annual Golf Par-Tee Tournament held at the Long Marsh Course in Rotonda West last month (7/26/25) was a great success. Izzo stated that that this year's income was the highest in 4 years. 2022 \$17,721, 2023 \$18,563, 2024 \$18,251, 2025 \$18,918! Great job everyone!
8. **Leads Group:** Cataldo updated the Board that the Power Partners Group has generated 46 referrals, resulting in 13 closed sales with a value of \$629,000; \$5,000 added from last month. Great progress for a program still in its infancy. They meet on the 2nd & 4th Thursday of each month.
9. **Financial Updates.** Cataldo gave his financial report. YTD net income is down \$12,060.75 from last year. July 2025 over 2024 was down \$15,778.25 mainly from dues, donations, and some advertising/promotion income.
10. **Executive Director's Report, Doug Izzo:**
 - a. **Facebook Post:** Izzo reminded everyone to share Chamber posts on Facebook.
 - b. **Member Dashboard:** July saw a more normal month of new members and drops; 13 added, and 5 dropped. Total active members 838.
 - c. **New Member Cards:** Signed by BOD attendees
 - d. **Upcoming Events:** Let's Eat Englewood 9/11/25 – 9/24/25, Manasota Mystique Saturday 10/4/25
11. **Old Business:**

MOTION: By Jennings. 2nd Whitmore. To approve and accept the new Chamber Employee Manual as written. Motion passed unanimously.

12. **New Business:** Manasota Key Legacy Foundation. Doug brought to the attention of some of us the formation of a local foundation that wishes (in part) to purchase the former Michael Saunders & Co property located at the corner of Beach Rd and 776. No formal motion was made as we were interrupted by our guest speaker. Izzo suggested we vote via email. The email went out. The motion was tabled for now, as most respondents were seeking more details.

13. **Open Discussion:** At 8:33 Charlotte County Commissioner Joe Tiseo (District 5), who had requested to make a presentation during our board meeting, interrupted our meeting as if it was no big deal. Frankly, I would have sent him to the lobby, or back to his car, as he wasn't to speak until 8:45 am. We had to abruptly end the New Business portion of our meeting as well as Kim's quarterly membership update.

Commissioner Tiseo came to the Board to defend the County's efforts in re-opening Englewood Beach and parking lot. He tried to purport that the Chamber had somehow relayed information that as of March 6th "the county had no plan" in place to re-open any portion of the parking lot/beach. To us and in Doug's defense, Doug simply reiterated an email he received FROM a county official that "at that time" there was no plan. Commissioner Tiseo asked how many of us "watch" or attend county meetings? Only a couple of members raised their hands. Not even sure how many residents are taking the time to watch the commissioners' meetings. In closing it was discussed how we manage these types of situations in the future. As in most cases, this may have been avoided if communication was clearer on all fronts.

Meeting adjourned at 9:34 am. Motion to Adjourn: ??